

Government to probe Papandreu

ATHENS (R) — The Greek government said Wednesday it would not permit a probe into the alleged involvement of Prime Minister Papandreu in connection with a \$1.6 billion French weapons deal. The announcement was made hours after the 360-seat parliament voted to investigate the former Socialist premier in connection with a multi-million-dollar bank embezzlement scandal. The new coalition government formed July 2 with the sole aim of investigating former Socialist ministers suspected of wrongdoing in a variety of scandals. Papandreu has emerged as the principal target. Early Wednesday parliament voted 171 to 122 to set up a committee to investigate the bank scandal which could lead to a formal criminal prosecution and trial for Papandreu, 70. Later the government said it would also name Papandreu in a second scandal: the purchase of 40 French Mirage-2000 fighter planes in 1985. The deal carried a total price of \$1.4 billion, or \$40 million an aircraft. The conservative New Democracy Party has said the price was grossly above the market value and demanded detailed accounts, including information on commissions paid and to whom. The motion setting up a second committee to investigate Papandreu in the plane deal will be presented in parliament Friday, government spokesman Athanasios Kamelopoulos told reporters.

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Qadhafi and Habre to meet

BAMAKO (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and Chad's President Hissene Habre are to meet in Mali Thursday to try to solve the conflict between their two countries, Malian radio said Wednesday. The two leaders would be joined by the heads of state of Nigeria, Algeria, Gabon and Mali in an attempt to reach agreement before next week's summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa. Chad and Libya have gone to war several times since 1973 when Qadhafi seized the Aouzou Strip, a sliver of mineral-rich desert between the two neighbours. They signed a ceasefire in 1987 after Habre's ragged army pushed technically superior Libyan forces out of the northern third of Chad. Malian President Moussa Traore, current president of the OAU, has been mediating between the two countries. Tripoli and N'djamena restored diplomatic links in October last year but talks between them in Gabon in June collapsed. Qadhafi wants the return of more than 1,500 Libyan prisoners of war and the departure of some 1,800 French troops from Chad. Habre wants the return of the Aouzou Strip and a Libyan pledge to end support for his Chadian opponents.

2 Palestinians killed, 24 injured

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops killed two Palestinian protesters in the occupied West Bank Wednesday and a suspected Arab collaborator was found shot dead, military sources and Palestinians said. Hospital officials said troops shot and wounded 24 Palestinians in widespread clashes with stone-throwers in the occupied Gaza Strip.

A paramilitary policeman shot lead Haber Ali Al Jazarah, 22, who allegedly tried to attack him in a Jenin refugee camp, military sources said. An army spokesman confirmed troops killed Samir Subhi Al Khuras, 17, in Beit Lid village, near Tulkarm, after meeting violent resistance during an "initiated action" — army jargon for a search-and-arrest mission meant to subdue rebellious villages. Beit Lid residents said six other villagers were wounded in the clash.

A day-long hunger strike called by underground leaders to protest at the Israeli closure of West Bank schools and expulsions of Palestinians was widely observed. An Israeli woman soldier, Ova Maimon, 19, died overnight of wounds received two weeks ago when a Palestinian forced an Israeli bus over a cliff. Her death took the toll in the attack to 16. American lawyer Rita Levine, 9, died Tuesday of lung problems sustained in the bus disaster.

Another Palestinian, Rizik Abdul Razak Berat, 65, was reported shot to death by unknown assailants in the West Bank. Reports said his body was found in a

well in the village of Taibe and he was slain for allegedly helping the Israeli occupation authorities.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, four Palestinian boys aged eight to 14 suffered injuries to the eyes, head or shoulders from rubber bullets fired by troops quelling stone-throwing protests, reports said.

Another Palestinian was shot by troops and wounded in the neck in Nabulus, the reports said. Many of the residents of the occupied territories observed the protest hunger strike.

In Nabulus, the largest West Bank city, Palestinian vendors sold sandwiches and grilled meat in the street as normal. Residents said they did not know of the fast, called in leaflet 42 of the Unified Leadership of the Uprising. Activists said some restaurants in Nabulus, Jenin and Tulkarm honoured the hunger strike by closing for the day.

The uprising leaders also urged Palestinians abroad to join the hunger strike.

Reuters reports from Lebanon said scores of Palestinians in the 'Ain Al Hilweh and Mich Mieh refugee camps near Sidon observed a symbolic hunger strike.

Among those fasting in South Lebanon were some of the 55 Palestinians Israel has expelled since the start of the uprising. In Kuwait, where more than 300,000 Palestinians live, the Palestinian embassy said it was to hold a public fast followed by an austere dinner and telegrams would be sent to human rights organisations demanding support for Palestinian rights.

Bush blocked Israeli plan to kill Arafat

UWAIT (Agencies) — U.S. resident George Bush has blocked an Israeli plan to assassinate Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Tunisia, the Al Seyassah daily reported Wednesday.

It quoted unidentified Palestinian and Arab sources as saying that Arafat had proposed that alah Khalaf, deputy leader of the mainstream Fatah group, be named as his successor in case he is succeeded in killing him.

"The U.S. administration intervened to block the implementation of an attempt on Arafat's life," the newspaper reported.

"The plan had been developed over the past six months under the supervision of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who did not report it to the inner cabinet," Al Seyassah said. "President Bush warned Shamir that Washington would be obliged to raise the level of its contacts with the PLO and issue a call for convening an international conference on the Middle East if the Israelis went ahead with their machinations," it added. The report was published two days after Israel's industry minister, Ariel Sharon, publicly called the Israeli government to "eliminate" Arafat.

Al Seyassah quoted Palestinian security sources as saying that they had uncovered seven Israeli attempts to assassinate Arafat in recent years. It said the latest death plot envisaged assassinating Arafat

and the PLO's 10 top leaders by the end of next year.

The daily said the operation against Arafat was to have been carried out by 100 Israeli commandos who had undergone special training over the last four months.

They were to have flown to Tunis, where the PLO had its headquarters, aboard a transport plane equipped with electronic countermeasures that would enable it to evade radar and warning systems.

The daily did not elaborate on how the Israeli force would land. But it said that once in the Tunisian capital, the Israelis were scheduled to carry out simultaneous attacks on several offices and houses where Arafat is known to spend time.

"In response to a proposal by Arafat, the PLO leadership has taken a secret decision to prepare Salah Khalaf to take over as Arafat's successor in case the Israelis succeed in gunning him down," one source was quoted as saying.

In London, a PLO official said Wednesday that groups backed by an Arab country and Iran were planning to assassinate Arafat.

Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to Arafat, also accused Israel of involvement in plots to kill Palestinian leaders and said he knew specific names of army officers involved.

But he declined to comment on a report by a U.S. television network that guerrilla leader Ahmad Jibril had accepted a \$122-million contract to kill the PLO chairman.

U.N. chief begins Namibian mission

VINDHOEK (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar began three days of talks Wednesday aimed at smoothing out the remaining rough spots in the year-long independence plan for Namibia.

The United Nations chief met with senior U.N. officials in the territory and was scheduled to hold additional discussions Wednesday with all major political parties and Namibia's South African administrator, Louis L'ecuyer.

"I want to ensure that conditions are created that will enable the holding of free and fair elections" in November, Perez de Cuellar said upon his arrival in Namibia late Tuesday night.

South Africa, which has ruled Namibia since World War I, agreed to implement the U.N. independence plan under the terms of a regional peace accord signed last December. More than 5,000 U.N. personnel are in Namibia to monitor the process.



Regent meets ACC ministers

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday received the four foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC). Present at the meeting were Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Royal Court Chief Thawqan Hladawi, His Majesty King Hussein's

Political Adviser Adnan Abu Odeh and the ambassador of the ACC countries in Amman. Earlier Wednesday, the Regent visited the Armed Forces General Headquarters and discussed with Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb matters of concern to the Armed Forces.

Levy: Election plan is nothing but an illusion

Shamir aides draft compromise to resolve crisis with Labour

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Three ministers close to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir drafted a compromise formula Wednesday to end an Israeli government crisis over proposals for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories.

"The crisis erupted two weeks ago when Shamir's right-wing Likud Party placed headline constraints on the initiative, prompting the coalition Labour Party of Vice-Premier Shimon Peres to threaten to walk out.

Under the compromise drafted by Justice Minister Dan Meridor and cabinet ministers Moshe Nisim and Ehud Olmert — all Likud members — the cabinet would reaffirm next Sunday that only the government's original plan was valid "without the slightest addition or modification."

Under pressure from right-wingers, Shamir agreed on July 5 to a Likud resolution which barred the 140,000 Palestinians of Arab Jerusalem from voting in the

proposed election and made it conditional on an end to the 19-month-old Palestinian uprising. The resolution, supposedly binding on Likud ministers, also stipulated that there must be no limit on Israeli settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, no Palestinian state and no "foreign" sovereignty in any part of the occupied territories.

These issues were deliberately left vague or excluded from the original proposal, leaving scope for negotiation.

Peres blocked an attempt to bury the crisis by having the cabinet approve Shamir's statement reaffirming the initiative at last Sunday's cabinet meeting. Several of his Labour colleagues, notably Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, were dismayed.

But with mounting pressure from most Labour ministers to stay in the government and statements from Washington that the United States is satisfied with Shamir's assurances, Peres seems unlikely to hold out for much tougher terms.

Shamir's three main rivals in

Likud, hawkish Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon, Deputy-Premier David Levy and Economics Minister Yitzhak Modai, met Wednesday and asserted the party vote was binding on the prime minister.

Levy stepped up attacks on Shamir Tuesday, telling a parliamentary caucus meeting that the election initiative was "nothing but an illusion." Speaking before Knesset right-wingers, Levy blasted Shamir and his allies for "threatening" him and the other Likud ministers who are trying to secure the constraints the party's central committee placed on the initiative.

Meeting in the Knesset with members of the Ezer Yisrael Front, Levy charged that Shamir had turned the ideological tables on him and his allies, labelling as an internal opposition "those who in fact are standing up for the Likud's principles."

"I am not ready to accept such accusations from those who stand close to the prime minister," Levy thundered.

Levy asserted that without the constraints, the initiative was dangerous and possibly fatal for Israel.

PLO says it approved Palestinian-Israeli talks

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Wednesday it approved of meetings between Israeli officials and leading Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In a statement issued by the office of spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman, the PLO denied that such Palestinians had been threatened, whether they met Israelis on their own initiative or at the request of the Israeli military governor.

"All these meetings take place with the knowledge and agreement of the PLO leadership and

our brothers who hold these meetings send detailed reports on the results," it added.

Israel has accused the PLO of intimidating West Bank Palestinians into refusing to meet the Israeli authorities and of plotting to assassinate those who do.

PLO leaders have approved the idea of a Palestinian delegation meeting Israelis to discuss proposals for elections in the occupied territories but have stipulated that a serious delegation must include Palestinians from the diaspora.

The PLO statement said a threatening leaflet circulated in the West Bank this week was a forgery by

Israeli intelligence, designed to confuse the Palestinian people.

The leaflet, circulated in the city of Nabulus, attacked philosopher Sari Nusseibeh by name, accusing him of corruption, and two other mainstream Palestinian nationalists by implication.

Honour-Belton meeting

In the Hague, Dutch and PLO officials confirmed Wednesday that an Israeli cabinet member and a senior official of the PLO held a secret, indirect meeting last month with a former Dutch foreign minister acting as intermediary.

(Continued on page 2)

ACC ministers gather for talks on boosting cooperation, coordination

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) members — Iraq, North Yemen, Egypt and Jordan — gathered here Wednesday to discuss cooperation, and coordination in various fields, with particular emphasis on easing travel regulations among the four member states.

Tareq Aziz of Iraq, Abdul Karim Al Aryan of North Yemen, Esmat Abdul Meguid of Egypt and their Jordanian counterpart Marwan Al Qasem, who is also deputy prime minister, are scheduled to open formal talks Thursday.

Aziz, who arrived Wednesday noon along with Aryan, was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the two-day meeting would review "a working paper which includes means of cooperation and coordination among the ministries of the four countries on the Arab and international scenes."

The four ACC heads of state — Saddam Hussein of Iraq, Ali Abdullah Saleh of North Yemen, Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and His

Majesty King Hussein — endorsed the working paper at their summit in Alexandria last month, Aziz told Petra.

Replying to Petra's questions, Aziz said: — A call by Israeli Trade Minister Ariel Sharon for the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat "reflects the aggressive and terrorist nature of Israel and its leaders. Such statements are clearly designed to undermine Arab and international efforts to accelerate the Middle East peace process."

"The international community should take effective measures to counter such aggressive moves and to deal firmly with Israel's practices and the Arab countries should increase their awareness and vigilance as well as joint efforts in the face of such hostile attitudes and all future Zionist designs and measures."

— The Arab states have adopted a unified stand, rejecting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's proposal for Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The plan "is nothing but a ploy which does not aim at achieving just and permanent peace but at consoli-

dating the occupation of Arab territories."

The ACC member states, along with the rest of the Arab League, support this view as endorsed by the Casablanca Arab summit held in June.

Abdul Meguid, who arrived later Wednesday, told Petra that his country saw Thursday's meeting as an excellent opportunity to prepare the proper mechanism towards achieving the ACC's aspirations and goals.

The three foreign ministers were received upon arrival here by Qasem and other senior officials.

A Jordanian official quoted by the AP said Thursday's meeting would discuss cooperation between the ACC and the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as well as cancelling exit taxes and visas among the four countries. The ACC summit in Alexandria agreed to these measures.

Among other topics expected to be discussed is the possibility of sharing some consular services in countries where not all ACC member states maintain embassies.

Jordan rejects Israeli report

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Wednesday strongly denied as fabricated reports in the Israeli media that the Jordanian dinar will be re-named the Jordanian pound and said that Jordanian citizens and the people of the occupied West Bank could never be deceived by such falsehoods.

"Such reports are totally ungrounded and are obviously part of an ongoing Israeli media campaign against Jordan," according to a statement by a responsible source.

It said: "The reports, which were echoed by Israel Radio, can be regarded as part of Israel's expansionist policies and seek to counter Jordan's firm, solid and pan-Arab, oriented stand. The false campaign is clearly designed to shake the people's confidence in their country and their national economy and to create conflicting views among members of the public about the general situation in the Kingdom."

"We are confident that all citizens living here or abroad and in the occupied Arab territories are well aware of the objectives of the hostile Israeli campaign," the statement concluded.

Abkhazia violence continues; Gorbachev tackles mine strike

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Rioting gangs have seized weapons from police and troops in the Black Sea region of Abkhazia where 18 people have died in five days of ethnic violence, the official news agency TASS said Wednesday.

It quoted Interior Ministry officials as saying that clashes between Abkhazians and Georgians were still going on despite a state of emergency and the presence of more than 3,000 troops.

"There are reports of organised armed groups in cars attacking Interior Ministry troops. In some cases groups of more than 100 people are involved," TASS said.

"Attacks on individual citizens and security forces with the aim of seizing firearms and ammunition are commonplace."

The number of dead reached 18 Tuesday when a traffic policeman was shot outside the regional capital, Sukhumi, TASS added.

Officials in Sukhumi said the situation was calmer Wednesday. But a Pravda report from the nearby resort of Sochi quoted bus drivers returning from the region as saying they had been fired at on the road and a number had been wounded or beaten up.

"Even the wealthiest passengers cannot persuade drivers to take them to Pitsunda or Batumi — not for any money," it quoted one as saying.

An Abkhazian told Reuters he had driven from Ochamchiri district to Sukhumi in a convoy of vehicles led by an armoured personnel carrier.

He said the current calm in Sukhumi was largely due to the presence of a huge number of troops. Reinforcements had arrived Tuesday and they now filled the streets of the city.

He said one group of Georgians had begun negotiating a peace settlement with the Abkhazians, whose objections to the opening of a branch of a Georgian university in Sukhumi sparked off the violence.

The Abkhazian clashes are the latest in a spate of ethnic violence which the authorities have been unable to contain. In the past eighteen months more than 200 people have died in clashes spreading across eight Soviet republics.

The more liberal atmosphere and increasingly outspoken press under President Mikhail Gorbachev appear to have lifted the lid on a whole range of long-suppressed national grievances.

In a television address earlier this month Gorbachev appealed for an end to the bloodshed,

which he said threatened the country's unity and the success of his reform programme.

The problem has been compounded by the biggest wave of industrial unrest to hit the country since the 1920s.

Miners at nearly 60 pits in the mighty Donbass coalfield of the Ukraine, the largest in the country, walked out this week over living and working conditions, joining more than 150,000 miners in the west Siberian Kuzbass, who have been on strike for more than a week.

Gorbachev's warning

Addressing the Soviet parliament Wednesday, Gorbachev said the strike in the two coalfields, which together produce just under half the country's coal, created "an acute situation fraught with grave consequences for the whole country."

The parliament later decided to stop television coverage of a debate on the nationalities issue, for fear of instigating further tension or violence.

At the same time, officials in the Kuzbass coal basin said strike committees in most centres there had voted to resume work at midnight after Moscow envoys had pledged their demands would be largely met.

"The situation is fraught with dangerous political and economic consequences," a stern-faced but calm-speaking Gorbachev told deputies to the Supreme Soviet, the country's parliament, in an unscheduled address.

On Tuesday night, Moscow television showed Kuzbass miners rejecting an earlier recommendation from their committees to resume operations. "It is all talk so far. We want concrete pledges," one told a television reporter.

A regional government spokesman in Donetsk, centre of the Donbass which produces more than a quarter of the country's coal, said 59 mines were now on strike there — a figure indicating about 50,000 miners could be involved.

Gorbachev told the Supreme Soviet he and Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov had sent a cable to the Ukrainian miners, long regarded as fiercely loyal to the Communist Party, saying they would be granted the same terms as their Kuzbass colleagues.

The labour unrest comes in the wake of a new surge of ethnic violence and protest by local national groups seeking greater autonomy or even independence.

جوردان تايمز

Artillery duels rage in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — Three people were killed and seven wounded in battles in Beirut and South Lebanon Wednesday and Spanish diplomats said 34 of their countrymen were to be evacuated during the night.

Police said one person was killed and four were wounded in artillery duels between army units loyal to commander Michel Aoun and Syrian-backed Lebanese militiamen in Beirut. Two others were killed and three wounded in artillery battles between rival militias in South Lebanon.

A source at the Spanish embassy, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the decision to evacuate non-diplomatic Spaniards was taken "because of the danger of random shelling."

The Spaniards were scheduled to leave by ship around midnight (2200 GMT) from the port of Jounieh, north of Beirut, to Cyprus, the source said.

He said a family of six living in west Beirut were to join the evacuees in east Beirut.

The Spanish ambassador, Pedro Manuel de Aristegui, was killed April 16 when a 240-mm mortar round hit his east Beirut residence during fierce shelling duels.

The source said the Spanish embassy, under Charge d'Affaires Norberto Ferrer, would maintain its skeleton staff, but he did not say how many diplomats would remain.

Most Western embassies are operating on reduced staffs in east Beirut.

The U.S. embassy cut its personnel to less than a dozen shortly after the battles between Aoun

and the militiamen broke out March 8.

There has been no organised evacuation of foreigners recently, but the U.S. and British embassies have called on their nationals to leave Lebanon because of the fighting in which 420 people have been killed and 1,692 wounded.

Police reported that gunners shelled ports north of Beirut, while Aoun's forces targeted artillery emplacements on the main seaside boulevard in west Beirut.

The Syrian backed militiamen daily shell the coastline to enforce a blockade to stop Aoun's forces getting shipments of weapons and other supplies.

The casualties in the south came in an eight-hour battle with howitzers and rockets between Israeli-backed militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) and Iranian-backed guerrillas of the fundamentalist Shi'ite Muslim Hizbollah.

A police spokesman said SLA gunners pounded Hizbollah strongholds in the villages of Mashgara, Maidoun, Ain Al Tineh and Zillaya in the western part of the Bekaa Valley with 122-mm howitzers.

They scored several direct hits on a Syrian army outpost in an abandoned government school in Mashgara, he said.

"The Syrians did not respond to the barrage and it couldn't be

established whether they suffered any casualties in Mashgara," the spokesman said. He cannot be named under standing regulations.

The shelling was an apparent attempt by the SLA to force Hizbollah to release three sympathisers kidnapped Tuesday from the village of Qatani on the edge of Israel's self-designated "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Police said Hizbollah guerrillas infiltrated Qatani before dawn Tuesday and kidnapped five men, but later freed two of them. The spokesman said Hizbollah responded with salvos of 107-mm rockets 99 the SLA-held mountain town of Jezzine and surrounding hamlets. It was not known if there were any casualties.

Jezzine is a strategic town at the northern tip of an SLA-held salient that juts out of the Israeli buffer zone, where the SLA also operates.

Police said the SLA barrage stopped at 10 a.m. (0700 GMT), but the militia's Voice of the South radio station said the shelling would resume in 12 hours if the three men were not released.

Israel established the "security zone" when it withdrew the bulk of its army from South Lebanon in the summer of 1985, three years after it invaded its northern neighbour.

The strip, which runs from the Mediterranean coast in the west to the slopes of Mount Hermon in the east, is 10-to-16 kilometres deep.



Hundreds of people have been killed by car bombs in the 15-year-old Lebanese civil war. Thousands of lives were saved from car bombs by Youssef Bitar, Lebanon's one-man bomb squad.

One-man bomb squad in Lebanon is a 'charmer'

By Rodeina Kennaan
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — They call Youssef Bitar the "bomb Magician." The Lebanese demolitions specialist has defused more than 2,000 terrorist bombs during the course of a 14-year civil war.

His record appears unqualified. At 61 years of age, he has survived a mine explosion, been shot at several times and survived three assassination attempts.

He gets a salary of \$200 a month — and free gasoline. "If all the bombs he's defused had gone off, the death toll of the civil war would have been more than doubled," said a police colonel, who declined identification. "Bitar is indispensable."

More than 150,000 people have been killed in the civil war, hundreds of them in car bombings.

When car bombs explode before he can get to them, Bitar usually can tell by the blast how much explosive was used — and sometimes even the type.

Bitar has defused 300 car bombs outside hospitals, airline offices, newspaper buildings, embassies, government ministries, movie theatres, churches and mosques. Most of the others were powerful devices planted in jetliners, supermarkets, banks, schools, universities and gasoline stations.

He estimates the total explosive weight of the bombs he had defused since 1975 at more than 100 tons.

A Christian, Bitar regularly defuses Lebanon's sectarian barriers, racing across Beirut's dividing green line from the predominantly Christian east to the predominantly Muslim west, dodging shells and sniper fire to do his duty.

In 1983, he dismantled the biggest bomb of his career, a device planted in west Beirut packing 600 kilograms of dynamite and four Katyusha rockets. It could have pulverised a city block.

"That was probably the worst disaster I've prevented," he said in an interview in his elegant east Beirut penthouse apartment.

Bitar stroked his siamese cat Rambo as he talked dispassionately about his exploits, gesticulating with hands missing three fingertips.

Talking of his exploits seemed incongruous amid the plush Persian carpets, brass ornaments and the Oriental decor of his marble-floored apartment.

He lost one fingertip when a detonator exploded in his hands.

He lost two fingertips on the other hand in 1982 when he stepped on a mine after he had defused a bomb in a Palestinian base in the mountains overlooking Beirut. The blast also injured his chest and feet.

"That cost me three months in hospital," Bitar said.

A veteran of the French Foreign Legion, who fought the Germans with Charles de Gaulle's free French forces in World War II, Bitar calls himself a "bomb charmer."

He joined the Foreign Legion as a teenager when Lebanon was still ruled by France and served with special forces and demolition teams in North Africa and Europe.

"I was with de Gaulle's Free French Forces in Algeria when I heard about the American atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima Aug. 6, 1945," he recalled. "It sort of kindled my interest in explosives."

After joining the Lebanese army in 1946, Bitar became Lebanon's top explosives expert. But he really came into his own when the civil war erupted

in 1975 and the car bombings started.

"I operate with great faith in God," Bitar said. "But I rely mainly on intuition — and a little bit of luck."

"I can tell the kind of bomb I've got to tackle the moment I see it. I try to disconnect it as quickly as possible. I feel as if it's placed under the bed of one of my children," he said.

He said he never panics because he can see right away what needs to be done. "The bombs don't frighten me. But I'm always afraid of the people who planted them," Bitar said.

The first time someone tried to kill him during his bomb duty was Sept. 19, 1975, as he defused a car bomb in the Barbir neighbourhood of west Beirut.

"Two bullets hit my neck and chest, but I managed to finish dismantling the bomb before I collapsed. I stayed two months in hospital that time," he said.

Gunmen shot at him, and missed, three years later, as he was defusing a bomb near the entrance to a movie house in the western sector.

The third assassination attempt was in 1985, while he was visiting the Helou police station in west Beirut.

"Someone tossed a hand grenade into the room," he said. "I threw myself to the floor to grab it and threw it out the window into the parking lot. No one was hurt."

Although Bitar retired from the army in 1980, he was immediately hired by the Defence Ministry.

"I don't think of quitting," he said. "When I look in the eyes of people when I arrive to tackle a bomb, I see their faith in me. 'I'll fight the bombers as long as I live.'"

PLO says it okayed talks

(Continued from page 1)

On June 26, Abdullah Hourani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, held "indirect and triangular" talks with Yossi Beilin, Israel's deputy finance minister, according to the PLO's representative in the Netherlands, Afif Safieh.

Max van Der Stoep, who was Dutch foreign minister from 1973-77 and from 1981-82, acted as intermediary in the meetings in the Hague. Safieh told the AP.

Dutch Foreign Ministry spokesman Peter van Vliet confirmed van der Stoep's role in the Israeli-PLO contacts.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

King Fahd postpones U.S. visit

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, who had been scheduled to meet with President George Bush in Washington later this month, has requested that the state visit be postponed, according to an announcement from the office of the White House press secretary. "King Fahd of Saudi Arabia called President Bush to request that the state visit scheduled for later this month be postponed due to the sensitive phase of the mediation on the Lebanese situation by the heads of state committee of which the king is a member, the announcement said. The president expressed his understanding as well as his wishes for the success of the committee's effort to bring peace and stability to Lebanon. Both leaders agreed that the state visit would take place as soon as could be arranged after Sept. 1."

Soviet envoy concludes talks in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Igor Belousov, who also is in charge of military industries, concluded a four-day visit to Iraq Tuesday and left for home. Soviet embassy sources said. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, described the meeting between Belousov and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as "important." The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said that Hussein and Belousov agreed to "boost bilateral cooperation in some important fields," but gave no details. It said Belousov delivered a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on "wide-ranging relations of friendship and spheres of bilateral cooperation." Hussein and Belousov, INA added, discussed "requirements for security and stability in the region and a comprehensive and durable peace between Iraq and Iran." Belousov, the second high-ranking Soviet official to visit Iraq this month, arrived in Baghdad Saturday just two weeks after Iraq expressed concern over a Soviet-Iran arms deal. Belousov told reporters in Baghdad that Soviet ties with Iraq had passed through "a difficult period" but expressed optimism about future relations.

77 face further trial delay in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Seventy-seven Muslim militants, charged three years ago with trying to topple the Egyptian government, learned Tuesday their trial faces further delays. Reversing a ruling by a different court, the supreme state security court told 24 bearded defendants that the case would be referred to a military tribunal rather than civil judges. Lawyers said the men had been freed pending trial since 1987 and that the other defendants were either in detention or had not been told they should attend the hearing. Taha Al Samawi, a 44-year-old merchant said to be the group's leader, told Reuters he denied the charges against him. "The charges are fabricated and baseless. I do not belong to any organisation. My crime is that I am calling on people to follow God's path," he said. He said he wanted Islamic law in Egypt.

10 Thai pilgrims die in Mecca

BANGKOK (R) — At least 10 Thai Muslims died during Haj pilgrimage to Mecca, a spokesman for Thailand's leading Muslim organisation said Wednesday. The Thai Islamic Centre said most were elderly pilgrims who suffered strokes and high blood pressure due to the extreme heat. They were buried in the Holy City.

Seven killed in violence in Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Seven people were killed and 10 wounded in violence in southeast Turkey Tuesday, Turkish officials said. The casualties included a 14-year-old boy killed and two others injured when a bomb exploded near a Turkish secret service base in the southeast regional capital of Diyarbakir. Early Tuesday, a Turkish army sergeant and two Kurdish rebels were killed in a clash on the Cudi Mountain near where the Turkish, Iraqi and Syrian borders meet. Later two rebels were killed and seven wounded and an army private killed and one wounded in a clash near Hakkari in the far southeastern corner of Turkey. Southeast Turkey is the centre of a five-year-old Kurdish rebel insurgency in which 1,500 people have died. The banned Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) is fighting for a separate state for Turkey's estimated eight-million Kurds.

Airbus families advised to reject offer

ABU DHABI (R) — Dubai lawyers said Tuesday they were advising six-figure payments from the U.S. government and seek up to 15 times as much in American courts. Najib Yassin Abdul Ghafour, spokesman for Dubai-based lawyers Salman Lutfi and Samir Kenan, told Reuters by telephone: "We will continue the suit against the American government because the offer is ambiguous and small." He said the Dubai lawyers were contacting clients and advising them to "turn down the offer and go ahead with the lawsuit." The United States has offered a total of about \$30 million to relatives of the 290 passengers and crew killed a year ago when the missile cruiser Vincennes downed an Iranian civilian Airbus A300 during the Gulf war. The Dubai lawyers say they represent relatives of 97 victims and have started proceedings in California against the U.S. Defence Department to claim \$1.5 million for the family of each victim.

Soviet deputy minister holds Kuwait talks

KUWAIT (R) — Soviet General Konstantine Kochetov, a deputy defence minister, met Kuwaiti officials Tuesday and Western diplomats said the talks probably revolved around arms sales. An official at the Soviet embassy told Reuters that Kochetov met Kuwait Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah on the second day of his four-day visit to Kuwait. He said the visit was routine and had been planned long in advance, and that no major agreements were likely to be signed. However, Western diplomats said it was nearly certain the Kuwaitis would review their defence needs with Kochetov.

Kabul rejects rumours of leadership struggle

KABUL (Agencies) — The Afghan government has denied there was an internal feud in the country's leadership or that a minister had been arrested. Rumours of discord within the government of President Najibullah were fuelled early Tuesday

when security forces launched a security operation in central Kabul.

But the evening news on state television, evidently aiming to squash persistent rumours that Defence Minister Colonel-General Shanawaz Tanai had

been detained, showed him visiting army units. It was not clear when the film was shot.

"All these rumours are baseless," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani. "There is no internal feud."

Troops backed by armoured cars and tanks sealed off one of the city's 11 districts at 3 a.m. and began house-to-house searches for anti-government rebels and arms.

The searches, which lasted several hours, stretched from a residential area down into the city centre.

Amani told reporters that Mujahideen guerrillas has threatened to launch a major rocket offensive on Kabul in mid-July and called the security operation an effort to forestall terror.

Four days ago a massive car bomb exploded in a main shopping area of the city, killing at least 20 people, according to unofficial figures.

The government says nine people were killed when 500 grammes of explosives hidden in a pickup truck were detonated by remote control.

The Foreign Ministry, in a statement, attacked the United States over media reports that it intends to step up arms supplies to the rebels.

"It is a matter of regret that the peace efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan, due to the foreign intervention of the United States, have a pace of slow development. They are becoming hampered."

Sheikh Zayed meets PLO aide at Buckingham Palace

LONDON (AP) — A senior official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) met at Buckingham Palace with a visiting Arab leader but did not see members of Britain's royal family, the palace said Wednesday.

Bassam Abu Sharif, senior advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, went to the palace Tuesday to deliver a message to Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan, president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), who is visiting Britain for four days as the guest of Queen Elizabeth II. "The president is the guest of the queen," said a palace spokesman, speaking anonymously in keeping with British custom. "It is entirely up to him who he sees outside his official programme during his stay. There are no restrictions."

A Foreign Office spokesman said: The call at the palace was not to meet a member of the British royal family. It is not for us to say how this will affect the PLO's international standing.

Abu Sharif said he passed on a message from Arafat and discussed with the president the "increasingly dangerous situation" in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"The talks I had with the sheikh are part of the continuing discussions on the situation in the Middle East," he said. "The meeting was a very positive one. I am extremely pleased at the progress made."

Sharif met Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe at the Foreign Office for 10 minutes last week, the first time the cabinet minister has received a senior member of the PLO.

Howe urged the PLO to hold to a moderate line despite what the Foreign Office called "disappointing" moves by Israel's Likud party.

On July 5, the Likud party, which governs in coalition with Israel's Labour party, demanded the 19-month Palestinian uprising end before new elections are held and said the Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem cannot cast ballots, a key Palestinian demand.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:45	Programme review
15:55	Children programme
17:00	Hill Squad
18:00	News for the Deaf
18:20	Religious programme
19:15	Health programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Local series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Local programme
23:00	News in Arabic
23:10	Arabic film
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Le Grand Echiquier
19:00	News in French
19:15	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Bill Cosby Show
21:10	Beauty and the Beast
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film: "Go Toward the Light"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:07	Fajr
05:38	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:42	Dhuhr
16:23	'Asr
19:46	Maghreb
21:17	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweidat Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terzian Church Tel. 622266	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383	
625843	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assiout International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 818817, 821264	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be relatively hot and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./max. temp.	
Amman	19 / 34
Aqaba	27 / 39
Desert	18 / 39
Jordan Valley	25 / 39
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 36 per cent, Aqaba 47 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweidat Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	

ADMAN:	
Amal Al Zoor	794149
Dr. Ahmad Al Nour	653934
Dr. Mahmoud Jabr	775050
Dr. Abdul Rahman Jabr	896691
Firas pharmacy	661912
Fendos pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Natrouki pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
DRBID:	
Dr. Ahmad Bishawi	(—)
Al Shara's pharmacy	(985238)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Jihad Masleh	(—)
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	(—)
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	(—)
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	(—)
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	(—)
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
Repairs	623101
Amal Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
RJ Flight Int'l. Airport	08-53200
HOSPITALS	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664714
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Musabir Hospital	667279
The Islamic, Abdal	666177/7
Al-Ahli, Abdal	664164/6
Isailon, Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Basit, J. Ashrafiah	775112/6
Army, Marfa	891617/5
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
Amman Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	(—)
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:30	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:00	Damascus (RJ)
10:00	Dhahran (add.) (RJ)
10:15	Agaba (RJ)
10:20	Jeddah (RJ)
10:20	Riyadh (RJ)
10:30	Cairo (RJ)
10:35	Dhahran (RJ

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ONDOLANCES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the agent, Wednesday delegated the Irbid governor to participate in the funeral of the late Shawkat Khasawneh and to convey his condolences to the Khasawneh family. The Crown Prince also delegated the North Ghor District governor to convey his condolences to Zinati family on the death of late Nawaf Zinati (Petra).

ONDOLANCES: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, has delegated director of his office Turki Khreisha to convey his condolences to the Khasawneh family on the death of late Shawkat Khasawneh. The Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker also delegated the Irbid governor to participate in the funeral of late Nawaf Khasawneh and to convey condolences to his family (Petra).

PEOPLE'S ARMY: The sixth batch of People's Army recruits graduated in Karak Wednesday following three months of training in the use of light arms, first aid and other skills. The graduates presented a performance of their skills in a competition which included assembling light weapons and later took the oath. Several speeches were delivered at the ceremony by the Karak military commander and local officials (Petra).

NEW DRAFT LABOUR LAW: Minister of Labour Dr. Jamal Hour Wednesday chaired a meeting attended by the committee that drafted the new draft labour law. The committee members presented their views about the law in light of the developments in the Jordanian labour market. The committee will present its proposals on the law to the Ministry of Labour so as to put into effect. (Petra)

S. STUDENTS VISIT JUST: A student delegation representing a number of American universities Wednesday visited Jordan University for Science and Technology (JUST). Acting JUST President Dr. Fayez Khasawneh briefed the delegation on JUST's educational philosophy, admission and registration regulations, and its role in the society. The students also visited Yarmouk University and were briefed on its educational achievements. (Petra, J.T.)

YOUTH CAMP ENDS IN AJLOUN: A week-long youth camp ended at the permanent camping site near Ajloun in northern Jordan. Participants in the activities, organised by the Yarmouk University's Students Department were involved in programmes for training the Prince Hassan Award. Altogether 30 students took part in the camp. (Petra)

600-METRE RETAINER WALLS BUILT: The Agricultural Department in Zarqa Governorate last month built a 2,600-metre long of retaining walls, according to a department spokesman. He said that these were set up around eight agricultural projects near araba village. (Petra)

A'FR YUBA ELECTIONS: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan has decided to appoint assistant Irbid Governor Hani Sawaid to the post of director of the a'fr Yuba municipal elections which will be held on Oct. 31. (Petra)

ALHIYA GETS JD 20,000 LOAN: The Cities and Villages Development Bank's board has agreed to grant a JD 20,000 loan to alhiya Municipal Council for asphalted streets. (Petra)

RUSSIAN LANGUAGE AT YARMOUK: Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan Tuesday signed an agreement with the Soviet Techno-Export Corporation, whereby the corporation will provide the university's language centre with two Soviet teachers to teach Russian at the Modern Language Centre. (J.T.)

ARAMCO CONTRIBUTION: The Saudi Arabian Arab-American Oil Company (ARAMCO) representative in Jordan Jamal Al Raith Tuesday delivered a \$65,000 cheque to the president of the al-azza-based Islamic University, Mohammad Ahmad Saqr. The cheque represents ARAMCO's annual contribution to the university. (Petra)

Malhas visits Zarqa Governorate

ARQA (Petra) — Health and Social Development Minister Zahair Malhas Wednesday visited Zarqa Governorate to inspect health services there and to meet with Governor Mohammad Nabab and other officials. The minister held separate meetings with the director of the Social Development Department and the director of the department's activities and its drive to promote the role of local and social and voluntary societies. Malhas also visited the Islamic Arbitable Society, and Masannat, Hammad Ibn Afham, Muab, Omar Al Khattab and other charitable institutions to inspect their services and hear their requests. In a statement later Wednesday, Malhas said that the Ministry was concerned with promoting the activities of the social development and voluntary centres in the governorate. The government, he added, "will continue to back social and voluntary work and help charitable organisations care for orphans and the aged; and will continue to provide them with free health and medical services."



Zahair Malhas

ing the activities of the social development and voluntary centres in the governorate. The government, he added, "will continue to back social and voluntary work and help charitable organisations care for orphans and the aged; and will continue to provide them with free health and medical services."

Smuggler dies as heroin bags burst in stomach

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 25-year-old Egyptian drug smuggler died here shortly after arriving from Cairo after being poisoned by 200 grams of heroin. A report in Al Dustour Arabic daily said that the Egyptian, identified by the police only as (M.M.), arrived here on July 12 and was taken unconscious from an airport to Al Bashir government hospital in Amman where he subsequently died before receiving treatment. The paper quoted Colonel

Ghaleb Al-Zoubi from the Public Security Department (PSD) as saying that the coroner found out that the death occurred as a result of blood poisoning which warranted an autopsy. The autopsy he said revealed the presence of four tiny plastic bags (7 by 3 cm each) in the deceased man's stomach which had burst releasing the heroin into the body and causing his death. The daily said it was the first case of its kind in Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of posters which show the history of puppets at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by three Arab artists representing Bahrain, Syria and Jordan at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.

FILMS

- ★ A feature film entitled "The Empire Strikes Back" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Documentaries, films and interviews commemorating the 20th moon landing anniversary, at the American Centre — 3:00-7:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

- ★ Poetry recital by Arab poet Ahmad Hijazi at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 7:00 p.m. (Friday).



The Late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein declares independence of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (file photo)

Jordan Thursday marks 38th death anniversary of founder

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Thursday marks the 38th anniversary of the death of King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, who fell martyr while performing prayers at Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem in 1951.

King Abdullah played a major role in the Arab liberation movement that began in the early 20th century. In 1916, when the Great Arab Revolt was launched by his father Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali of Mecca, the young prince led the Arab army in battle against the Ottoman garrison in Taif, Saudi Arabia, and headed the

army that proceeded to the east to liberate Medina.

King Abdullah also played a major role on the political arena and took part in the talks held between his father and allied armies.

When the French occupied Damascus in 1921, the young prince came to Ma'an, where the historical event of establishing the Emirate of Transjordan took place.

From the very day he was proclaimed king, the Arab leader defended the Arab identity of Palestine and sought to rally Arab ranks and coordinate Arab stands to preserve unity of the Arab soil, destiny

and objectives.

King Abdullah led the Arab armies in the struggle to save Palestine from Zionist occupation following the withdrawal of British mandate forces from Palestine in 1948. The Jordanian army, despite its limited number and resources, succeeded in liberating Al Aqsa Mosque, Arab Jerusalem and the entire West Bank from Israeli occupation.

In 1950, King Abdullah responded to the call by Palestinian leaders to unify the East and West Banks and announced the unity of the two banks in April 1950.

Amman to host 6th congress on aerospace education next week

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman will play host to the sixth world congress on aerospace education next week which will be held here under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein and with the participation of delegates from 17 nations.

The four-day congress, organised by the World Aerospace Educational Organisation (WAEIO) in cooperation with Royal Jordanian (RJ) will be formally opened Monday by the WAEIO Chairman Mr. Kamel Naguib.

Naguib and the WAEIO president, Dr. Curtis Graves, will be among the speakers at the meetings which will tackle a host of topics ranging from aircraft leasing and financing, economic and technical problems facing airports and air traffic control to the role of regional airlines.

Naguib said in a statement on the eve of the event that the sixth congress is marked with the participation of newcomers involved

in aviation and space.

But, he said, among the highlights of the congress will be the presence for the first time of two veteran cosmonauts from the Soviet Union — Alexey Elyseev and Victor Savinykh — as well as U.S. Astronaut David Walker and Dr. Farouk Al Baz director of the Centre for Remote Sensing at Boston University.

For his part, the WAEIO president said that 20 years ago this week the organisation celebrated a major milestone in aerospace history July 19 was the anniversary of the first manned landing on the moon.

Since that memorable day, the president said, nations have been putting men and women in space on a continuing basis.

Aircraft which could not be conceived of 20 years ago are flying on a daily basis, Graves said.

He said: "Our congress in Amman marks another milestone. We are entering another decade

of progress with the sharing of information and education in the aerospace field. Our theme: 'Aerospace education for cultural development' addresses the broadening process we are going through globally. Aerospace activity has made the world smaller and made it possible for us to witness events as they happen anywhere in the world."

The WAEIO aims to provide an international forum for the exchange of information and ideas for organisation, firms, and individuals interested in aerospace education.

It also aims to promote and improve methods and practices in aerospace education, to establish international standards relating to aerospace education, to identify emerging trends in aerospace education in the industrial nations and to raise the level of awareness and understanding of the people on the importance of aerospace education.

July 29 meeting to discuss national environment strategy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Matters related to the projected national environment strategy will come under detailed discussion at a general and expanded meeting to be held at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman on July 29, according to an official announcement by the Department of Environment at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

The announcement said that the participants will be members of eight specialised committees who will discuss the broadlines of the strategy which is designed to provide protection to the environment in the Kingdom.

The committees, picked up from the private and public sectors, represent departments and organisations concerned with agriculture and land, surface and underground water resources, beaches and coastland, population and housing, the atmosphere and air, energy and minerals,

antiquities, cultural and archaeological sites.

Last month, the department director, Sufian Al Tal, said that Jordan had embarked on the implementation of a national environment strategy in cooperation with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, which helped to provide the kingdom with more than \$300,000.

ACC farm cooperative directors to meet today

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Heads of farm cooperatives in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries are converging on Amman for a meeting Thursday to discuss coordination of efforts to provide better services to farmers.

The three-day meeting will examine a number of working papers, including one presented by the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO), dealing with closer cooperation among cooperatives in the four member countries — Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen — so as to help the general effort for a total integration among the four countries.

A JCO spokesman said that a programme of tours and visits to various projects by the visitors has been prepared.

He said that the participants in the meeting will be oriented on the Kingdom's cooperative movement and its projects in different areas especially in the rural regions.

Bani Kinana meeting discusses steps taken to help grow medicinal herbs

IRBID (Petra) — A meeting was held in Bani Kinana district of Irbid Governorate Wednesday to discuss steps taken so far to help local housewives grow useful plants and medicinal herbs — a project sponsored by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF).

Altogether, 26 local women from four villages in the district are involved in the project for which preliminary arrangements have been made.

Speakers at the meeting outlined the work needed by the participating women who will receive special training to grow the plants as a way of ensuring an extra income for their families.

The project is part of NHF's activities which are being financed by the U.N. fund for population activities and in cooperation with the local women's unions.

According to an NHF source, the project aims to help rural women to benefit from pieces of land around their home to grow foodstuff and useful plants which are in demand in the local markets.

According to the source, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Jordan University of Science and Technology are both involved in the implementation of the project.

Work is underway for new Palace of Justice

By Suhair Obeidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Work is underway for the construction of a new Palace of Justice which will cost more than JD six million, and will take three years to complete. Minister of Justice Rateb Al Wazani announced Wednesday.

The new Palace of Justice, which will be set on a 25 dunum land, will replace the old fashioned building situated in downtown Amman and which is no more suitable to cope with the ever-increasing work, the minister said at a press conference.

The temporary solution, until the project is finished, is the establishment of courts in the suburbs of Amman to ease off some of the pressure on the Palace of Justice. "A court has already been operated in Jabal Hussein and more are to be opened in Jabal Amman, Marka and Madaba Street (Ashrafieh and Wehdat), in less than a month's time," he said.

The judicial institute will start teaching by Sept. 15, with two aims. First, to upgrade the existing judicial system, by arranging for 250 judges to take courses in the institute — at the rate of at least six annual courses accommodating at least 20 judges.

This will help the judges to be in constant contact with the judicial sciences to which many improvements are installed every once in a while," Wazani said.

The second aim of the institute is to prepare new judges of law school graduates. Those who have a bachelors degree can enlist in the institute after the period of two years pass on their appointment, while those with the masters of doctorates are excluded from this condition.

After completing two years in the institute, the graduates receive a diploma which qualifies them to be judges.

"After the graduation of the first batch of judges from the institute, no one will be appointed as a judge, unless he is

graduates from the judicial institute," Wazani said.

The minister said that the institute has announced an entrance contest to which 133 lawyers have applied, and only 35 of which will be accepted. The teaching staff will comprise judges, teachers from the Faculty of Law at the University of Jordan and two other teachers from the Egyptian Judicial Institute.

In establishing the institute, we reported to the regulations of the judicial institutes in Egypt, Iraq, Morocco, Algeria, France and West Germany," he said.

Referring to the issue of judicial inspection, the minister said that under the system of reorganising the Ministry of Justice, a Judicial Inspection Department will be established. It will consist of four senior judges, to be distributed among the country's governorates to inspect the cases in courts.

Wazani pointed out that the department will prepare reports about each of the country's judges, promotion of the judges will depend on the inspection reports. Judicial inspection, he said, is psychologically significant, and it also helps hasten the process of adjudicating the cases.

"The main reason for the delay in adjudicating, is I think the problem of witnesses. Many witnesses are subpoenaed to testify but refrain because of the long waiting hours, in addition to the lack of space and the stuffy atmosphere in the Palace of Justice," he said.

The minister said he favoured increased exemptions for those unable to pay the relatively "high" fees. He said the ministry's budget is made up of the JD

2.5 million fees and JD half a million fines.

In a continuous drive to keep the judges backed up by books and resources, the ministry has already established a library in each of the first Instance Courts in Jordan. "Today, the libraries need updating and new libraries are to be established. The ministry will go even further by compiling libraries for each judge in his own home, since most of the adjudicating is done there," the minister said.

"The judges will be asked to contribute with nominal fees while the ministry will pay the rest of the money needed to buy the books," he said. Wazani said that in three months time, committees formed by the ministry will finish re-evaluating most of the laws, established since the early fifties; readjusting some of their texts and forming new ones. "They will be passed to the new parliament for endorsement."

Scholarships are also on the ministry's agenda. There are currently six Jordanian judges studying in Egyptian universities at the expense of the Egyptian government.

"There are 16 judicial vacancies which the ministry is about to fill. 77 competitors participated in the competition, 13 of whom were lawyers," he said.

"Establishing First Instance Courts depends on the density of the population, so in taking this point into consideration, the ministry is about to establish First Instance Courts in Jerash, Ajloun, the Jordan Valley and Ramtha," he said.

In a separate development, the minister announced that the agreement of legal and judicial cooperation between the member countries of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) is now effective. The agreement was signed by the ministers of justice of the member states in Alexandria on June 16.

Under the agreement, extradition of criminals between the ACC countries is now possible.

Female youths living abroad to start activities at Ajloun permanent camp

AMMAN (Petra) — The permanent youth camp near Ajloun in the northern regions of the Kingdom will serve as the ground for week-long activities by 70 Jordanian female youths who live abroad.

A statement by the Ministry of Youth, which is organising the event, said that the gathering, the third of its kind to be held in

Jordan, offers a good opportunity for the participants to learn more about their country and take part in useful voluntary work for their community.

The campers who gather at the camp Saturday will meet with officials to learn about the various aspects of development in social and economic fields, and will make field trips to cultural, scientific, touristic and archaeological sites in the Kingdom, the statement noted.

The ministry attaches great importance to these meetings which tend to foster loyalty among the youths towards their homeland, and help them remain attached to their community, the statement pointed out.

The statement said that the ministry normally keeps in touch with the participants while they continue to live abroad and provides them with publications about Jordan.

Khammash visits Maritime Bridge Company

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Hikmat Khammash Wednesday visited the head offices of the Maritime Bridge Company in Amman and urged officials to double their efforts in providing services to travellers via the Aqaba-Nweibeh Land-Sea Route.

The company is owned by Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt and at present it is in charge of operating ferry boats commuting passengers between Aqaba in Jordan and Nweibeh in Sinai.

The number of passengers travelling on this route in June increased by 22,410 persons compared to the number of passengers in the same month of 1988, according to a statement here earlier this month.

The Jordanian authorities have introduced new measures to provide further facilities to the travellers at the crossing points and terminals, according to Mr. Eid Al Fayez, director general of the Jordan Ports Corporation (JPC).

He said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the construction of a \$2 million passenger terminal at Aqaba Port has been completed and that it was being furnished.

During his visit to the company offices, Khammash said that the route was offering a valuable service for passengers and goods going to and from Egypt, Iraq and Jordan, and linking Arab countries in the Asia and Africa.

The minister called for greater cooperation with the Jordan Ports Corporation to provide more facilities for travellers.

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DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:

DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

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Hard choices

THE WAY Moscow chooses to deal with the wave of spreading strikes in the Soviet coal mines would surely reflect the level of sophistication of the new Soviet system and gauge the depth of perestroika in that vast country. So far the Soviet government, under the leadership of President Mikhail Gorbachev, has opted for dialogue to tackle the mammoth strikes instead of blind confrontation. By conceding that the strikers have legitimate concerns and that the economic difficulties in the USSR are at the heart of the issue that troubles the Soviet workers in the coal mines, the Soviet government has clearly chosen to absorb the mushrooming conflict rather than try to deal it a death blow.

Still many observers of the contemporary Soviet scene would forcefully argue that the interests of the striking workers are more political than economic. In these complex times, however, one can hardly divorce political from economic issues, and most probably the emerging conflict in the Soviet Union is eco-political, not just one thing or the other.

But be that as it may, the biggest strikes ever in Soviet history pose the greatest challenge ever to the Soviet system and to Gorbachev's perestroika. Many alarmists have already concluded that the Soviet system is breaking up at the seams. They point to the burgeoning ethnic and nationalistic conflicts in such places as Abkhazia and Georgia, not to mention earlier armed conflicts in Armenia and Azerbaijan, as additional evidence that the "Soviet empire" is fast collapsing under the strain of Gorbachev's perestroika and glasnost policies.

A more enlightened analysis of what is going on in the Soviet Union would give a more positive interpretation of recent events and developments in that country. This second school of thought views the various crises that the USSR is undergoing as part and parcel of the modernisation process. According to this school the Soviet Union is finally coming of age through the acceleration of the dynamics of perestroika. History will of course be the final judge of the rapid transformations within the Soviet Union. All that one can say at this critical stage is that the choice of dialogue over confrontation is on balance the wisest course that Moscow can take. The international community has certainly a vested interest in seeing that common sense and visionary policies are triumphing over short-sightedness in one of the biggest countries of the world.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday criticised a statement by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in which he said that the present circumstances are not appropriate for convening an international Middle East peace conference. The paper said that Baker ought to have at least added that the United States will continue its drive to create the opportune climate for convening the conference because the United States has a moral obligation to spread peace around the globe. What is more, Baker did not announce Washington's rejection of the Shamir plan despite the amendments added to it, making it totally unacceptable to the Arab side, the paper noted. It said this attitude indicates that Baker and the United States in general continue to consider the Shamir election plan as a substitute for the projected international conference. We had hoped that the United States which holds a permanent seat at the U.N. Security Council and considered a superpower, would take practical steps to put an end to the atrocities committed by Israel in the occupied Arab lands, said the paper. The United States, it added, should join the peace-loving nations of the world, not only in condemning Israel's inhuman practices, but also in paving the ground for a permanent solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday calls on the government to introduce a quota system enabling only limited-income groups to benefit from the subsidised basic commodities. Fahed Al Faneek says that the rich have a greater purchasing power in the market; and they continue to benefit from the subsidised commodities in a greater proportion, since they consume more foodstuffs than the poor. The writer says that it is unreasonable for the government with an empty treasury to go on subsidising meat, for instance, which is bought once or twice a week by the limited-income groups but in greater quantities by the wealthy. He says that such basic commodities like milk, meat, cheese, rice and flour should be bought through a fixed quota, benefitting only those groups with limited income. The quota system, the writer adds, is in force in many countries of the world which face conditions and circumstances similar to those of Jordan at present. He notes that Jordan now has more than 400,000 tourists, expatriates and diplomats who along with the wealthy and the poor in Jordan, benefit from the subsidised prices. This he concludes to be an unfair arrangement and can only encourage more consumption.

Al Dustour daily Wednesday refers to the meeting opening in Amman by the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries grouping Iraq, Egypt, North Yemen and Jordan. The paper said that the meeting is another step towards cementing ties of cooperation between the four brotherly states in implementation of the ACC objectives. The four leaders who chaired the ACC in Baghdad last February were determined to pave the ground for further and stronger inter Arab cooperation and integration; and the Amman meeting is part of the ongoing endeavours to achieve that goal, the paper added. The Arab Nation has no alternative to closer links and mutual cooperation in view of fast developments worldwide, and in the light of the formation of large economic groupings, the paper noted. It said that the Amman meeting can only lead towards stronger cooperation among the ACC states in all fields.

Israel's orthodox right and the killing of non-Jews

By H.J. Skutel

THOSE seeking to understand how Israeli soldiers and Jewish settlers can treat Palestinian protesters with a heartlessness which has stunned even Israel's most cynical critics, must, of necessity, take into consideration certain religious concepts which have been part of the social environment, if not formal education, of numerous individuals among the oppressing forces.

It is a basic assumption of the Halacha, Orthodox Jewish law, that the killing of a non-Jew does not constitute "murder." While it is regarded as a sin, it is deemed of little enough consequence to be left to God alone to pass judgment and is exempt from any punitive action by temporal Jewish authority.

The origin of this view lies first and foremost in the Bible, but it obtains its pernicious character from the post-Biblical Talmud and 12th century Mishna Torah (Repetition of The Law), wherein universal humanistic tendencies evident in the Bible (and subscribed to by most Jews) are supplanted by a narrower ethic.

In Deuteronomy 21, for example, the Jewish leader of a city, having discovered the body of a murdered individual whose identity and assailants are unknown, beseech God to recognise their innocence of the crime. In the Talmud however, the victim, for whose slaying the "elders" and "judges" fervently seek divine exculpation, is identified as a Jew. For this reason, religious parties in the Knesset protested heatedly against the inclusion of excerpts from this passage in the February 1983 Kahan Commission report on Israeli complicity in the Sabra and Shatila massacres. The slain, after all, were non-Jews. Indeed, the negligibility accorded in Sukkah (32b) of the Talmud where it is written that one of the four things which God "repents that He had created" are the "Ishmaelites."

But the most definitive statement on the non-criminality of a Jew who kills a non-Jew is found in "Laws Concerning Murder" (2:11) in philosopher Moses Maimonides' revered Mishna Torah — the codification of Jewish law which anticipates the day when the Jewish people once again reign supreme in the Promised Land.

If an Israelite kills a resident alien (non-Jew), he does not suffer capital punishment at the hands of the court, because Scripture says, "And if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbour (fellow Jew)." Needless to say, one is not put to death for killing heathen (idolators, including Christians).

"Thou shalt not murder?"

Hence, according to Orthodox Judaism, the official religion of the Jewish State, the Biblical injunction "Thou shalt not murder" is applicable only in case where a non-Jew premeditatedly kills another non-Jew or a Jew, or a Jew kills another Jew.

"Even if in principle the gravity of the crime would warrant a death sentence against a Jew who killed a gentile, after all you cannot maintain here the principle of a human life for a human life, because there is a difference in quality between the human beings involved," explained Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein to Haaretz (Aug 9, 1985). "However you appreciate and admire and respect the soul of a gentile, it is not the same soul as that of a Jew. Lichtenstein is now head of Alon Shvut, one of Israel's most well-known hesder yeshivot; that is, a religious college where all students perform military service while pursuing rabbinical studies part time.

Now, it cannot be emphasised too strongly that there are thousands of Orthodox Jews in Israel and elsewhere, who are scandalised by the respectability accorded this view by extremist elements among their co-religionists. They, in contrast, consider as paramount the sanctity of all human life and draw inspiration from Genesis 1:27 where it is written that "God created man in his own image." Nevertheless, at one time more subtle and at other times more blatant, this execrable belief in the inequality of Jewish and non-Jewish life obtrudes into the secular affairs of the state.

Interviewed following publication of the Kahan Commission report, MK Avraham Shapira, speaking on behalf of the ultra-Orthodox Agudat Yisrael Party, rebuked the Commission for its censure of their military chief-of-staff Rafael Eitan, "because Christians went and murdered the Muslims." This criticism of the Commission was not to be construed as an insensitivity to the part of Agudat Yisrael towards the preservation of human life. "We oppose any bloodshed and are willing to give up a lot in order to save a Jewish soul," said Shapira.

Justifying terrorism

During the trial of alleged members of the terrorist Jewish Underground, in the summer of 1984, Rabbi Israel Ariel, who ran the Kach list in the 1981 elections, published a booklet of essays wherein he invoked the aforesaid quote from Maimonides to defend the innocence of the accused. Neither Israel's chief rabbi nor any Orthodox rabbi of note controverted Ariel. Henry Siegman, executive director of the liberal Zionist American Jewish Congress, appalled by the dearth of condemnation of the Underground by the Orthodox in Israel and the U.S., wrote to the Jerusalem Post in August 1984 that it seemed "to suggest that for this segment of the community (i.e. those who are most obser-

vant of religious law and ritual), non-Jewish life is less valuable than Jewish life. Indeed, for some it seems to be virtually worthless, except for the concern of *ma yomru bagoyim* (what will non-Jews say?)."

An "Amnesty Law" proposed three years later, which was fully supported by all the religious parties in the Knesset, but defeated 69-40, would have released from prisons seven members of the Underground, three of whom were serving life sentences for the July 1983 murder of three Arab students at the Islamic College in Hebron. Since 1985, President Chaim Herzog, under intense pressure from right-wing elements, has reduced their sentence three times from 24 years to the present ten years. With allowances for good behaviour, the men could be free in two years — if they are not pardoned before.

Arab security prisoners are given no maximum sentence, but serve indeterminate life sentences. Moreover, they are allowed no home leave or reduced sentences for good behaviour. Recently, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) has denounced the "ridiculous punishments," such as several months of public service or suspended prison sentence, given to Jewish settlers who have killed Arabs since the onset of the intifada. In one of the most grotesque travesties of justice to date, four soldiers in the "Givati" brigade, accused of beating an Arab who subsequently died, were cleared of all charges as it was deemed impossible to establish "who struck the lethal blow." Convicted instead of "brutality," the four have been sentenced to from six to nine months in gaol.

On Nov. 7, 1986, Maariv carried the opinion of Rabbi Eliezer Waldenberg on the utilisation of vital organs for medical transplant, which, at that time, was a matter of controversy in religious and medical circles. Waldenberg, a member of the Great Rabbinical Court of Jerusalem, is regarded by many as the greatest living authority on medical matters as viewed by Orthodox Jewry. Permitted to receive the heart, liver or kidney from the body of an individual whose heart is still beating, but whom the physicians claim is clinically (i.e. brain-) dead, applies only to a "non-Jewish donor." On the other hand, ruled Waldenberg, removing the

organs of a clinically dead Jew, whose heart was still beating, constituted "murder."

The Palestinians as "Amalek"

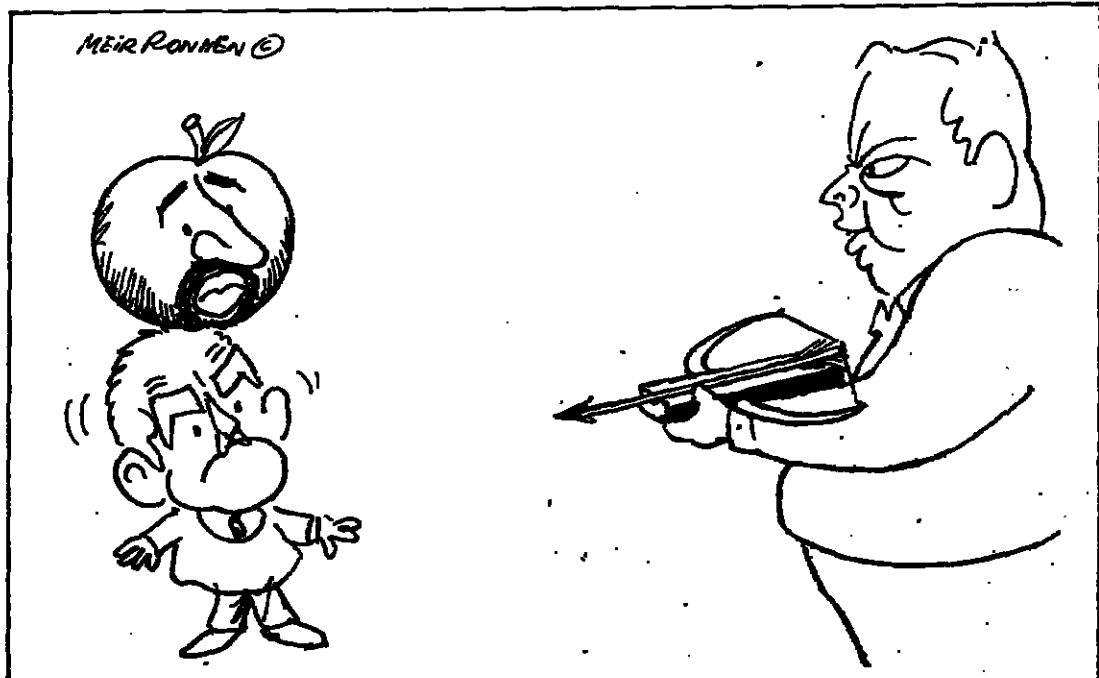
The frenzied opposition, in June 1987, of Orthodox and right-wing nationalists, including the chief rabbis, to the extradition to France (since implemented) of William Nakash, convicted of the 1983 murder of an Arab in the town of Besancon, and the preoccupation of the Landau Commission report, the following November, with the "perjury" of Shin Bet operatives rather than with their torturing and murder of Arab detainees, may be seen as further evidence of a pervasive indifference to Arab life. In addition, there is the penchant among chauvinist rabbis to equate Palestinians with the Biblical Amalek whom God exhorts the Israelites to "utterly destroy". Material to this effect was distributed in March 1986 by Rabbi Shmuel Derlich, IDF chaplain in "Judea and Samaria."

Finally, there is a booklet of "hymns and songs" and "selected publications" distributed by the ultra-Orthodox Shas party previous to winning six Knesset seats in the last Israeli election. Among the selections is a lengthy poem in the style of Chapter 3 of Ecclesiastes, wherein the author alternately entreats God to bestow blessing on Israel and calamities on Ishmael. Two stanzas read:

A day of prosperity for Israel
A day of extinction for Ishmael
A day of peace for Israel
A day of holocaust for Ishmael

The booklet opens with a preface by Rabbi Ovadiah Yosef, former Sephardi chief rabbi of Israel and spiritual mentor of Shas.

In Short, the traditional Western racism which has always characterised Israel attitudes towards the Arabs, has, since 1967 especially, been compounded by inhumane, even genocidal teachings propagated by the Orthodox Right. As long as these doctrines are espoused, by an important segment of the occupying civilian and military population, who perceive their Messianic dream growing daily more threatened, the lives of Palestinians in the territories become ever more precarious — Middle East International, London.



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My dream.

Saba N. Talhouk

Smoking is good for foreigners, not for Americans

By Colman McCarthy

WASHINGTON — Much time will pass before dentist Gregory Connolly forgets June 10 to 12 in Taipei. The director of the Massachusetts Office of Non-Smoking and Health attended an Asia-Pacific conference on cigarette smoking and health. "This was one angry meeting," he recalls, "I felt like the Ugly American."

Others at the conference — physicians, nurses and public health officials from nine countries — felt such rage at U.S. tobacco companies for forcing Far East governments to accept American cigarettes that anyone American was automatically the enemy. It took a while for Dr. Connolly, a public health official for the past six years, to persuade the group that he shared its anger, and then some.

America, of course, is not alone in the cigarette-exporting business. But as an American, Dr. Connolly spoke of his shame about his government's duplicity. While one member of the Bush administration, outgoing Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, says it is "reprehensible for industrial nations to export disease, death and disability in the way of cigarette smoke to developing countries," another part of the government, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, aligns itself with American tobacco companies eager to exploit Third World markets.

"Last February I was in the Philippines," Dr. Connolly recalled. "The most advertised product there is Marlboro. On the streets you see little kids standing between cars selling single cigarettes to motorists. They're paid 80 cents a day. Cigarette companies use the kids as human vending machines. They're cheaper, and they don't break down."

In Taipei posters for American cigarettes are at nearly every downtown street corner. Smoking rates rose 4 per cent last year in Taiwan. Health officials attribute it to U.S. companies and Western-style advertising. With smoking already established among Asian adult males — the rate is about 70 per cent in Bangladesh and Japan, for example — U.S. companies are going after the next market: women and children. The same advertising deceptions that have been discredited in the United States — smoking is sexy, youthful, up-

scale — are being aimed at a vulnerable population that is poorly informed about the lethality and addictiveness of smoking.

Some of Asia's educated elite must have ashtrays for brains. The July 1985 issue of the New York State Journal of Medicine, in an article on the U.S. government's energetic role in boosting cigarette sales in Japan, cited a claim by the Japanese minister of health and welfare that smoking was the reason for his excellent health. The prime minister at the time, Yasuhiro Nakasone, said cigarettes were not a health worry as long as warning labels were heeded. Japanese packs say: "For the sake of health, let's be careful not to smoke too much." Japan's National Cancer Centre reports that lung cancer is rising rapidly: 5,171 deaths in 1960, then 25,647 deaths in 1983.

On June 2, the office of the U.S. Trade Representative announced that it had begun an "investigation" into the Thai government's trade policies regarding cigarettes. Thailand bans cigarette advertising, but the U.S. Cigarette Export Association — which includes R.J. Reynolds, Philip Morris and Brown & Williamson — petitioned the trade office: "In order to compete effectively in Thailand, the U.S. cigarette manufacturers need to advertise and promote their products. Sufficient advertising and promotion will be necessary to repair the results of previous unfair Thai practices as well as providing a commercially competitive environment."

If U.S. trade officials agree that the Thai government is being "unfair" because it wants to protect its citizens from cigarette cancer, it can repeat the pressure tactics it has applied to other uncooperative governments.

Conferees at the Taiwan meeting wrote to George Bush on June 12 asking that he reject trade sanctions against Thailand: "The cigarette issue is not an issue of trade or trade imbalances. It is an issue of human health, and Asian health is as important as American health." Such a letter could not have been written five years ago, when few anti-smoking groups were active in Asia and those that were had little experience in mounting protests. Now they do. — The Washington Post.

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SEPT / SEPT

364 morts sur les routes en 1988

Inattention et indiscipline: duo meurtrier

Près de 7.000 personnes ont trouvé la mort ces 20 dernières années sur les routes du royaume. Causes majeures des drames: le non respect des distances de freinage et les refus de priorités. Alors que le nombre des accidents ne cesse de croître et que les assurances se plaignent d'être sollicitées de plus en plus, les autorités préfèrent la sensibilisation à un renforcement de la répression. Les conducteurs, eux, mettent en cause la qualité du réseau routier.



Les refus de priorité sont à l'origine de nombreux accidents meurtriers.

Bien qu'elle n'ait pas été insérée dans la déclaration de presse publiée dimanche à l'issue du SOMMET DES SEPT PAYS LES PLUS INDUSTRIALISÉS, la position commune des États-Unis, du Japon, de la France, de la Grande-Bretagne, de l'Allemagne fédérale, de l'Italie et du Canada en faveur de la "réunion, le moment venu, d'une conférence internationale (...) sur le Proche-Orient continue un événement important de la conférence de Paris.annoncé samedi soir par le ministre français des Affaires étrangères, Roland Dumas, le consensus qui s'est dégagé entre les "Sept" reste cependant prudent, évoquant une union "structurée de manière appropriée", sans plus de précision sur les participants non plus que le calendrier d'une telle initiative. Une prudence qui a souligné lundi le secrétaire général de la Ligue arabe, en remarquant que la déclaration était "exprimée en des termes qui peuvent donner à penser que certaines parties ont encore (...) une conception qui leur est particulière". Chedli Khlifi l'a néanmoins qualifiée de "pas positif" qui laisse "espérer une amorcée d'évolution de l'attitude américaine". Les États-Unis, qui contrairement aux Européens soutiennent jusqu'à présent la voie de la négociation directe menée par Israël, avaient fait part la semaine dernière de leur "inquiétude" après les amendements apportés par le Likoud au plan Shamir d'élections dans les territoires occupés. Le premier ministre israélien, qui a senti que le grand frère américain commençait à prendre quelque distance, s'est exprimé dès le week-end de rassurer Washington en indiquant que son initiative de paix n'avait pas changé d'un iota. Il n'empêche que la diplomatie américaine s'est engagée à Paris à défendre une "solution respectant les droits politiques légitimes du peuple palestinien". Droits qui ne permettent guère de contourner l'OLP, comme l'exige Tel Aviv. La radicalisation du Likoud, le parti du premier ministre, a également conduit à Grande-Bretagne à critiquer la politique de l'Etat juif. Le ministre d'Etat au Foreign Office chargé du Proche-Orient, William Waldegrave, a ainsi déclaré samedi que les restrictions imposées par la droite israélienne au plan d'élections "ont fait reculer le processus de paix". M. Waldegrave a même poussé l'avertissement encore plus loin en estimant que Margaret Thatcher "n'hésiterait pas un instant à inviter M. Arafat à rencontrer le secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires étrangères, Sir Geoffrey Howe, lorsqu'il entrera que cette rencontre pourra influencer de manière positive le processus de paix au Proche-Orient". (D'après agences).

N BREF

Occupateurs. Près de 110 commerçants, accusés de spéculation et augmentation illicite de prix des produits alimentaires, ont été rétés la semaine dernière par les forces de sécurité jordaniennes. Les "dizaines de tonnes de denrées cachées" auraient été couvertes dans plusieurs dépôts du royaume, ont précisé les autorités. Les commerçants appréhendus risquent d'être traduits en un tribunal en vertu des lois d'exception en vigueur depuis 1967, mais l'a rappelé le premier ministre, Zeid Ben Chaker.

Deux. Le prince héritier, Hassan Ibn Talal, a adressé vendredi un télégramme de vœux au président François Mitterrand, à l'occasion du bicentenaire de la Révolution française. Dans son message, le prince Hassan a loué les principes de liberté, d'égalité et de fraternité de 1789. Il a également souligné "la politique sage de la France" et affirmé "l'appréciation de la Jordanie pour les efforts personnels (de M. Mitterrand) en vue de la réalisation d'une paix juste et permanente au Proche-Orient".

Responsable. Le roi Hussein a imputé lundi à Israël la responsabilité des émeutes d'avril dernier contre la vie chère et la crise économique du royaume. Dans une interview au quotidien saoudien "Al-Chark Al-Awsat", publié à Paris, le souverain hachémite a notamment déclaré qu'Israël a accaparé les dinars jordaniens des habitants de Jordanie pour ses besoins, et les a fait passer en Jordanie au lieu de devises étrangères escomptées, ce qui nous a obligé à avoir cours aux réserves de la Banque centrale.

Universités. Le Conseil de l'enseignement supérieur a donné son accord à la construction de deux facultés privées en Jordanie. L'université privée d'Amman et l'université des sciences appliquées seront respectivement installées à Balqa et dans les environs de la capitale. Selon le quotidien "Ra", la faculté de sciences, à Amman, sera dirigée par le ministre de l'Industrie et du Commerce. Société privée (au capital de 10 millions de dinars) lancée par les expatriés jordaniens, elle devrait ouvrir ses portes à la rentrée universitaire 1990-1991.

Versets en français. La traduction française des "Versets sataniques" de l'écrivain anglais Salman Rushdie a été mise en vente mercredi dans l'Hexagone. Publié en anglais l'année dernière, le roman avait été considéré comme "blasphématoire" par un grand nombre de musulmans et avait provoqué la condamnation à mort de son auteur par Khomeini. "Je ne publie pas ce livre pour rallumer la guerre religieuse mais pour respecter mes obligations", a déclaré mardi Christian Bourgois, l'éditeur français des "Versets".

Économique. Le gouvernement espagnol a officiellement reconnu l'islam comme "notoirement implanté" dans le pays. Ce statut, qui jouissait jusqu'à présent le catholicisme, le judaïsme et l'islam, est indispensable à toute demande de subventions auprès de l'Etat. 200.000 musulmans vivent aujourd'hui en Espagne, regroupés en 19 communautés sunnites et chiites.

Rechercher militant. Le célèbre violoncelliste Mislav Rostropovitch, directeur de l'Orchestre national symphonique de Washington, a annoncé lundi qu'il donnera un récital pour soutenir la lutte contre l'extermination des éléphants d'Afrique. Selon lui, le concert devrait permettre de collecter 400.000 dollars, destinés à protéger les éléphants des chasseurs et des braconniers, ainsi qu'à promouvoir des recherches sur le commerce de l'ivoire que les organisations écologistes souhaitent faire interdire.

Le plomb. Le Canada a décidé lundi de renforcer sa réglementation sur l'essence sans plomb dans le but de la retirer du marché d'ici décembre 1990. A compter de cette date, seuls les véhicules commerciaux, agricoles et maritimes pourront utiliser un carburant au plomb, dont la teneur ne devra pas excéder 26 milligrammes par litre (contre 290 mg/l actuellement).

Aide alimentaire. Le programme d'assistance adopté par les sept pays les plus industrialisés lors du sommet de Paris s'est traduit lundi par la décision de la Communauté économique européenne (CEE) de fournir une aide alimentaire d'urgence à la Pologne. Une partie des stocks disponibles de céréales et de viande, gérés par la CEE, sera envoyée à Varsovie après la présentation d'un projet de règlement par la Commission européenne, prévue avant la fin du mois.

Compensations. Les États-Unis ont proposé 100.000 à 250.000 dollars de dédommagement pour chaque passager de l'Airbus iranien battu par erreur le 3 juillet 1988 par un bâtiment de la marine américaine. Selon le département d'Etat, l'offre a été communiquée aux gouvernements indien, italien, yougoslave, pakistanais et des États-Unis, dont Washington attend une réponse favorable. La même proposition a été transmise à l'Iran, dont 250 des 290 victimes étaient originaires, mais Téhéran aurait refusé de livrer la moindre information sur les familles endeuillées, affirme-t-on du côté américain.

Le premier casino polonais a été inauguré samedi à Katowice, dans les salons de l'hôtel Pod Roza ("sous la rose"). Les salles de jeux ont été équipées de deux roulette américaines, quatre tables de black-jack et quinze machines à sous. Ouvert aux étrangers et aux Polonais, le casino exige cependant des joueurs des mises en dollars.

Les Jordaniens conduisent-ils mal? A en croire les statistiques du département de la circulation routière (DCR), la réponse semble plutôt positive. De 1987 à 1988, le nombre d'accidents enregistrés par les services de police est en effet passé de 15.884 à 18.038, soit une augmentation de plus de 13%. Bien que le nombre de morts ait pour sa part diminué, passant de 396 à 364, le bilan des blessés de la route s'est lui aussi accru pour atteindre près de 10.000 l'an dernier. «Le plus inquiétant pour nous est de constater que le total des accidents progresse toujours depuis le début des années 1970», souligne Abdelmalek Abou-Sheikh, de la section des études statistiques du DCR.

Cause numéro un de l'insécurité sur les routes: «l'inattention». «C'est la formule que nous utilisons dans les procès-verbaux», poursuit Abdelmalek Abou-Sheikh. Mais, reconnaît-il, elle ne veut pas dire grand chose, sinon que très fréquemment il est difficile d'établir un véritable constat. Les gens impliqués dans un accident n'attendent que rare-

ment l'arrivée des policiers pour déplacer les véhicules. Il arrive même encore souvent dans les cas d'accrochages sans grande gravité qu'ils ne le signalent que le lendemain.

«Le vrai problème tient au fait que les conducteurs ne respectent pas les priorités», affirme Nizar al-Abidi, membre du comité central de la route au ministère de l'Intérieur et rédacteur en chef de la revue trimestrielle «Tarik al-Salam» (sécurité sur la route), qui depuis 1984 tente de sensibiliser le public aux règles de conduite en ville et en campagne.

Piétons et enfants

En 1988, 2.464 cas de violations du code de la route ont été sanctionnés comme étant à l'origine d'accidents souvent mortels (soit près de 13% des causes de cas sur la route) contre seulement 1.409 dépassements des limitations de vitesse. «L'autre phénomène qui provoque un grand nombre d'accrochages, rarement sérieux, est le non respect des distances de freinage», explique Abdelmalek

Abou-Sheikh. L'an dernier, nous avons recensé près de trois mille accidents imputables à cette erreur de conduite.

Alors que l'alcoolisme au volant n'entre que pour 0,02% dans les causes d'accidents (quatre cas enregistrés en 1988), le DCR reconnaît que ce phénomène est sous-estimé, faute d'alcotest ou de prise de sang immédiate. «Par contre la fatigue, et sans doute la drogue, expliquent sans doute que 49% des poids-lourds se renversent ou percent des voitures», prétend Abdelmalek Abou-Sheikh. Nombre de chauffeurs sont des étrangers qui travaillent le plus longtemps possible chaque jour pour gagner de quoi repartir dans leur pays.

Autre constat: l'implication très fréquente de piétons dans les drames de l'asphalte. «40% des personnes blessées sur les routes sont des piétons heurtés par les voitures», ajoute-t-il. Plus terrible encore est le fait que dans 65%

des cas où un piéton est victime d'un accident, il s'agit d'un enfant de moins de 15 ans.

Malgré la loi jordanienne, qui donne la priorité au piéton, «qu'il y ait ou non un panneau le signalant», il est vrai qu'il ne fait guère bon s'aventurer sur le bitume en pleine circulation. «C'est un rapport de force entre la voiture et la personne qui veut traverser ou simplement marcher, car les trottoirs, notamment à Amman sont souvent encombrés par les arbres ou les étalages des boutiques», se plaint Nizar al-Abidi.

Des assurances de plus en plus sollicitées

Rares sont cependant les automobilistes qui adoptent une telle attitude. Raison principale: l'assurance. Obligatoire depuis le début des années soixante-dix, elle ne peut fonctionner qu'au vu du rapport de police. «Avec la crise économique, les automobilistes préfèrent faire constater l'accident pour éviter de se ruiner», souligne-t-il.

Les compagnies d'assurance s'en rendent bien compte. «Les

gens sont de plus en plus exigeants», constate Na'im Na'oum, directeur du département automobile à la Jordan French Insurance Co. (JOFICO), tout en rejetant les accusations portées par certains clients contre les retards des compagnies à rembourser «correctement» les victimes d'accidents. «Nous prenons soin de faire respecter intégralement les droits des assurés», poursuit M. Na'oum, même si du coup nous avons du mal à faire des bénéfices. Une difficulté que ne semblent pas illustrer les comptes des compagnies enregistrées en 1988. Selon l'association des 17 sociétés jordaniennes d'assurances, le montant des cotisations s'est élevé à 14,8 millions de dinars pour moins de 7,5 millions d'engagements dans des remboursements et dédommagements d'accidents.

Malgré le port obligatoire de la ceinture de sécurité depuis février dernier et en dépit des campagnes de sensibilisation ou d'information dans les écoles, menées par le département de la sécurité publique, aucune amélioration de la situation ne semble être envisagée. «Ce qui évolue, c'est la qualité de nos études», affirme Abdelmalek Abou-Sheikh. Nous savons maintenant parfaitement où doit se porter notre effort. Un effort qui passe aussi par la réfection des routes, dont nombre de conducteurs critiquent la mauvaise qualité. «L'asphalte que nous utilisons est partout le même et il n'est pas très résistant», reconnaît Samir Oakash, ingénieur au ministère des Travaux publics. «Les écoles de conduite ont aussi leur responsabilité à prendre», ajoute-t-il. Il est vrai qu'on y apprend plus à faire de longues marches arrière qu'à regarder dans un rétroviseur.

Alain Renon.

La mort d'Herbert von Karajan

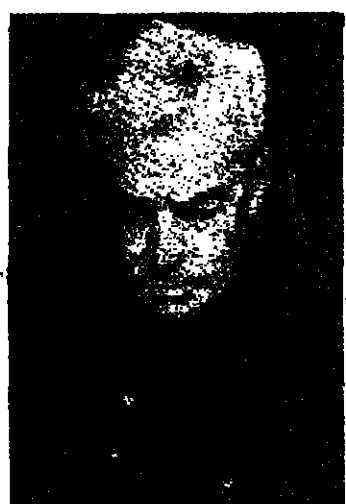
La fin d'un empire

Le célèbre chef d'orchestre autrichien, Herbert von Karajan, a succombé à une crise cardiaque dimanche, à 81 ans, dans sa demeure d'Anif près de Salzbourg, sa ville natale. Il souffrait depuis plusieurs années d'une maladie de la colonne vertébrale qui l'éloignait peu à peu de ses responsabilités musicales. Le 24 avril dernier, le maestro avait notamment renoncé à la direction de la Philharmonie de Berlin dont il était le chef à vie.

Avec la disparition d'Herbert von Karajan, le plus prestigieux chef d'orchestre de la deuxième moitié du XXe siècle, s'est éteint un véritable empire musical. Pendant 34 ans, le maestro a dirigé la glorieuse Philharmonie de Berlin. Infatigable, il a enregistré le nombre record de 700 disques lyriques et symphoniques, monté sa propre société de production pour filmer des opéras et créé le festival de Pâques à Salzbourg. Né à Salzbourg le 5 avril 1908, Herbert von Karajan y apprend le piano au Mozarteum, puis étudie jusqu'en 1929 à Vienne la direction d'orchestre. En 1929, il signe un premier contrat de chef avec le théâtre d'Ulm et se retrouve ensuite à 26 ans, le plus jeune «Generalmusikdirektor» d'Allemagne à l'opéra d'Aix-la-Chapelle où il reste en poste jusqu'en 1941.

Fin 1939, il devient premier chef à l'opéra d'Etat de Berlin avec lequel il se produira deux ans plus tard à Paris. Cette collaboration avec le régime nazi, aggravée par son inscription au parti national-socialiste dès 1933, lui vaut d'être interdit de direction publique de 1945 à 1947 en Autriche.

Cette ombre sur sa carrière ne l'empêche pas de conquérir dès 1948 toutes les citadelles musicales européennes. Responsable de la saison allemande à la Scala de Milan, engagé au festival de Bayreuth pour sa réouverture en 1951, il participe dès 1946 à la fondation du Philharmonie de Londres avec lequel il grava ses premiers microsillons.



Herbert von Karajan

Le bicentenaire à Paris

Une gigantesque fête

La célébration du bicentenaire de la Révolution française a drainé près d'un million de personnes dans les rues de Paris vendredi soir. Massée sur les Champs-Élysées, la foule a assisté à une gigantesque et fastueuse parade, clou des festivités. Véritable opéra-défilé, «la Marseillaise» a été interprétée par 6.000 figurants venus du monde entier. Des centaines de milliers de Parisiens ont contemplé le lendemain un feu d'artifice géant, qui a duré près d'une heure.

Les Français, mais aussi de nombreux étrangers, ont fêté dans la joie le bicentenaire de la Révolution française. Une exubérance dont rendait compte samedi la presse parisienne. «Bicentenaire: un 14 juillet qui fera date», titrait France-Soir, tandis que Libération affichait à la une: «Bicentenaire: un 14 juillet ré-vo-lu-tion-naire!».

Dès jeudi soir, les 30 chefs d'Etat invités aux célébrations, ont assisté à l'inauguration de l'Opéra de la Bastille, dont le système d'acoustique est le plus perfectionné du monde. Tard dans la nuit, plus de 100.000 personnes ont envahi la place de la Bastille, symbole de la Révolution: chants, pétards, musique, slogans... Bref, une ambiance de fête et de victoire.

Vendredi matin, le défilé militaire, de l'Etoile à la Concorde: 300 blindés, 500 hommes à pied et 250 avions et hélicoptères,

Devenu le patron du Philharmonique de Berlin, Herbert von Karajan prend aussi la direction artistique du festival d'été de Salzbourg et occupe les mêmes fonctions à partir de 1957 à l'opéra de Vienne. Il rejoint, en 1965, le directeur du festival de Salzbourg auquel il participe jusqu'à l'été 1988. De 1969 à 1971, on le retrouve conseiller musical de l'Orchestre de Paris.

Homme de tradition mais surtout perfectionniste, il n'hésite pas à mettre lui-même en scène les opéras qu'il dirige, à les filmer ainsi qu'à les enregistrer, montant sa propre société de films. Il trouve pourtant le temps de pratiquer plusieurs sports dont l'aviation, la voile et la course automobile. En 1982, un conflit l'oppose au Philharmonique de Berlin au sujet de l'embauche d'une jeune clarinetteuse. L'brouille ne prendra fin que deux ans plus tard.

Malgré une opération de la colonne vertébrale en juin 1983, Herbert von Karajan continue à diriger concerts et opéras jusqu'à sa démission du Philharmonique de Berlin, en avril dernier. Alors qu'il ne pouvait se tenir debout qu'avec beaucoup de difficulté, il avait entrepris les répétitions du «Bal masqué» de Giuseppe Verdi, avec lequel il devait inaugurer, le 27 juillet prochain, le festival de Salzbourg. (D'après agences).

FMI-Jordanie

Premier prêt

Le Fonds Monétaire International (FMI) vient d'octroyer un prêt de 80 millions de dollars à la Jordanie pour soutenir le programme de redressement économique et financier mis au point en mars dernier, après la visite d'une délégation du FMI à Amman. Ce prêt fait partie d'un montant de 275 millions de dollars que le FMI s'était engagé à accorder au royaume pour l'aider notamment à rééchelonner sa dette extérieure, qui a atteint 8,3 milliards de dollars à la fin de l'année 1988. Le rééchelonnement de la dette est aussi au coeur des discussions menées actuellement en France entre une délégation jordanienne et le Club de Paris, groupe informel qui réunit les principaux pays créanciers. Un premier accord pourrait être signé très prochainement sur le rééchelonnement des emprunts qui arrivent à échéance au cours des années 1989 et 1990. Début juillet, la délégation jordanienne avait tenu une réunion similaire avec le Club de Londres qui regroupe les banques privées ayant accordé des prêts commerciaux à la Jordanie. (D'après agences).

Expo cocasse

Ces drôles de voitures



Une cinquantaine de «crêtes ambulantes», sur quatre, six ou huit roues, un robot autrichien de conception japonaise parlant l'arabe, trois groupes de chanteurs néerlandais dont un émile de Michael Jackson, un spectacle laser tous les soirs... Faute de voitures «normales» pour son salon annuel, pour cause d'importations bloquées, le Centre d'expositions internationales d'Amman (CEI) a opté pour la «grande fantaisie», selon son directeur, Hassan Abou Ayman. Vingt neuf automobiles originales, construites selon les désirs et les délires de leurs propriétaires américains, allemands, belges et néerlandais, ainsi qu'une vingtaine de modèles jordaniens seront exposés du 2 au 25 août sur les 7.000 mètres carrés du grand hall du CEI. «Parmi tous ces monstres figure l'une des Cadillac d'Elvis Presley», ajoute Hassan Abou Ayman, dont l'objectif avoué est d'encourager ce «hobby» dans le monde arabe. «C'est la première fois qu'un tel événement se produit au Proche-Orient», affirme-t-il. Nous le considérons à la fois comme une attraction touristique et comme l'occasion pour les Jordaniens de se lancer dans des innovations qui ne sont pas nécessairement hors de prix, qui font plaisir et qui augmentent la valeur de leurs voitures. Le pari se révèle onéreux pour le CEI. L'exposition nous coûte 100.000 dinars, compte tenu du fait que nous payons le transport des véhicules depuis les États-Unis et l'Europe, ainsi que l'hébergement des propriétaires. Une dépense que les 50.000 visiteurs attendus au salon devrait permettre d'amortir.

A.R.

Mots croisés

par Florence Monteil

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement

1: revient après avoir oublié. 2: petit âne; coordonne. 3: contenant; bruit sec. 4: médecin. 5: il y fait plus frais qu'au soleil; morts. 6: redémarrer. 7: assumes. 8: préposition; pas cult. 9: reprises; habitudes. 10: démonstratif; reviennent chaque année.

Verticalement

A: ramener. B: gigantesque; exclamation enfantine. C: qui peut être doté; arriérer phonétique. D: préposition; morceau. E: résister. F: pronom; valeur. G: villes; pronom. H: ils étaient 40 contre Ali Baba. I: sur la palette; touchée. J: pièce étanche; nazi.

(Solution en bas de page)

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

The empires strikes back, d'Irvin Kershner, avec Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Billy Dee Williams et Anthony Daniels. Une poignée de rebelles de l'espace, en lutte contre le diabolique empire sidéral de Darth Vader. Pour sauver la galaxie, de course.

Centre américain, jeudi 20 juillet à 19h00 (en anglais).

E.T., de Steven Spielberg, avec Dee Wallace, Henry Thomas, Peter Coyote, Robert Macnaughton et Drew Barrymore. L'histoire de trois bambins qui découvrent un extraterrestre et décident de le garder avec eux, avant de l'aider à regagner sa planète contre l'avis du gouvernement, des scientifiques et du pentagone réunis.

Centre américain, dimanche 23 juillet à 19h00 (en anglais).

Une Vie, d'Alexandre Astruc, d'après Maupassant, avec Mario Schell, Christian Marquand et Antonella Lualdi (1958). Après une enfance heureuse dans la propriété familiale de Normandie, Jeanne découvre l'amour en la personne de Julien, qu'elle épouse. Lui la délaisse pour d'interminables parties de chasse et de nombreuses maîtresses...

Centre culturel français, lundi 24 juillet à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

Ciné-club. Suite du mois des festivals européens du cinéma. Séances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00 et 21h00.

FESTIVAL DE JERASH

Théâtre Sud.

Jeudi: Samira Sa'ed (Maroc) en concert (21h30, 5 dinars).

Renseignements à l'office du festival. Tél: 675199-686197.

TELEVISION

L'Été de la Révolution (2e partie), de Lazare Iglesis, avec Bruno Devoldère, Guy Fréjean, Bruno Kremer et Brigitte Fossey. La vie du roi de France, Louis XVI. Installé sur le trône, il épouse Marie-Antoinette et doit faire face aux événements de la Révolution qui le mèneront sur l'échafaud.

JTV, vendredi 21 juillet à 17h30.

Solution des mots croisés

Horizontalement

1: redécouvrir. 2: ânon; ou. 3: pot; clic. 4: praticien. 5: ombre; tués. 6: relancer. 7: endosse. 8: en; cru. 9: rachats; us. 10: ces; étés.

Verticalement

A: rapporter. B: énorme; na. C: dotable; cc. D: en; tranche. E: tiendras. F: on; coût. G: étés; s. H: voleurs. I: ruiné; émus. J: sus; ss.

في الأمل

"The value of collective action"

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff writer

AMMAN — Several years ago, an ethnic joke about Arabs and Japanese circulated among Arab expatriates living in Europe. The message of the joke was this: As individuals Arabs can accomplish almost anything they want, receiving both fortune and acclaim for their successes. As a group, however, the Arabs' projects fall to shambles. The Japanese experience is precisely the opposite: they are only successful and productive when working as a group, but fail to be successful when working as individuals.

Rarely has an ethnic joke hit at a peoples' main weakness more accurately than this one.

Without attempting to undermine the tremendous changes that have taken place in the last 50 years in Arab societies, we remain an individualistic society at large. There are, of course, many things to be said for the accomplishments of the individual. The concept of the "rights of the individual" is very much admired in the West, which prides itself in the legal documentation of such rights. In the Arab World, however, they are almost a birthright. It is the rights of groups and organisations that have been introduced into the social framework in the last 50 years.

Dr. Sari Nasser has spent over 10 years introducing the "value of collective action" to his students at the University of Jordan and through his students, to the residents of Amman.

Nasser explains his strong drive to change the current of thought about community work which still persists in many sectors of Jordanian society.

"You see, I grew up in a village with the knowledge that as an entity, the village (Nasser was born and raised in the village of Lifta, on the north-western outskirts of Jerusalem) was socially, politically and economically self-sufficient. As a child I was totally immersed in a lifestyle of cooperation with my elders. Each man, woman and child had their own roles to play. Roles were

defined, understood and each individual played his role well," Nasser recalls.

The villagers' cooperation, their dependence on each other, and their self-sufficiency as a group naturally made them independent of outside forces.

It is the vision of this very prestigious and powerful self-sufficiency that seems to have driven Nasser to explore the many avenues of social cooperation that can eventually create such a society on a larger scale.

After the expulsion of his family from Lifta as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, Nasser worked at odd jobs, graduated from the Quaker Friends Boys School in Ramallah and moved to the United States to continue his studies.

The ethic of labour

In the U.S., Nasser discovered a phenomenon that he found extremely worthwhile — the work ethic.

"People worked from 9-5, they worked as a group, and they worked hard. They knew their roles, knew their work, and, as a result, were extremely productive."

Nasser initially attended a Mennonite College in Kansas, where he supported himself by working as a farmhand and in factories.

"I could not possibly sit idle. At home we were taught that work is an essential part of living. So I worked," he remembers.

Nasser eventually received his B.A. and M.A. in sociology from the University of Chicago, subsequently becoming a "fellow" at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After getting married to an American, Nasser continued his studies, while working to receive his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Illinois.

After teaching sociology at New York University for several years, Nasser decided that it was time to come home. "I have a duty to my people, so I came back."

About his experiences in America, Nasser emphasises one thing in particular: "Attitude is



Dr. Sari Nasser

the most important part. I learned that nothing is impossible. If you don't have that kind of outlook, then it's likely that you will accomplish very little in life."

A new dimension

Upon his return to Jordan, where he immediately began teaching at the Jordan University, Nasser noticed that there was a big gap between what people said they wanted to do and what they actually did.

"This gap between words and deeds existed on all levels, especially at the University. Students were exposed to lectures and to words which were never translated into deeds."

Nasser intended to add a new dimension to the education of his students.

"I encouraged them to think about themselves, about their environment, what could be improved and how they, as a group, could go about doing something about it."

Nasser introduced a course in social development and organisation to the curriculum.

"I shocked the students into reality by making them physically experience the development of society. The class taught them that they could do something real. During the few lectures that the class entailed, we would think together about the society's needs and what we as a group could do ourselves to fulfill those needs."

The result was this: Students at the University of Jordan who came and went by public buses everyday needed bus shelters to protect from sun in the summer and the rain in the winter. Nasser's class of social development and organisation decided to build and erect bus shelters. So, from Sweileh, right up to the Ministry of Interior, students began erecting bus shelters. Both male and female students from all walks of life went out and actually did something.

'Public outcry'

Nasser recalls that there was something similar to a public outcry.

"Some people started calling me a corruptor because I made their children, especially their daughters, carry sand and cement. I was ostracised from both the students' families, as well as my colleagues. In short, the ideas and concepts I propagated were the target of a lot of anger. Some admiration was there too, but anger was the overriding feeling."

"The role of women in urbanised community such as Amman is, of course, not to dig holes in the ground. But most people couldn't even deal with the idea that some of their daughters were involved in physical labour, and in public."

"The vast majority of all parents certainly did not expect their daughters to do anything

along the lines of building a bus shelter. People send their daughters to study sociology at the university so that they would learn etiquette and social refinement, not how to be labourers. But by challenging societal norms, we were hastening necessary social change."

At the time, there was a major media debate about the social development and organisation course. The concept of self-help was being discussed in the newspaper, and on television and radio. Nasser recalls that "there were many who spoke in favour of the project and many who spoke against it. The country's decision-makers generally made encouraging remarks."

It was not only the parents, decision-makers and the general public that Nasser had to convince, but often the students themselves.

"For the first month of the semester the students would usually be very much opposed to the idea that they work like labourers. Then, by the time they had been working for four weeks, there would be a 180-degree turn in their attitude. The students eventually become proud to be working with their hands. They reevaluated all life's experiences and came to the conclusion that they had coloured their life and changed many of their attitudes," Nasser says.

Some experiences leave lasting imprints on people and on society. Nasser's project certainly seems to have been one of those occurrences.

Since then, Nasser's social development class has had a number of other projects, each of which have required the active participation of his students. The latest of these projects has been the building of a community centre in Hai Nazzal and one in Sweileh.

"Especially women and young children are in dire need of help. These centres give them a chance to upgrade their know-how and help themselves lead better lives," Nasser says.

The projects are usually financed by contributions from various institutions, organisations

and individuals. According to Nasser, there are individuals who volunteer their services for free such as architect Farid Habib.

"He does the designs and plans for free."

Nasser believes that community services are very important, "especially at a time like this." He says: It is very difficult for people to accept that they have to lower their standard of living. Crime is likely to increase under such circumstances, as well as prostitution, and children loitering. There is also likely to be less marriage and more divorce.

"There are also likely to be some positive social outcomes from the declining standard of living, according to Nasser."

"People are likely to become more creative and production-oriented. Educational institutions are responsible for guiding people to become self-sufficient."

According to Nasser, "our system of education has to be re-examined. At present, the educational system is teaching students in rural communities how to become urbanites. Furthermore, there is so too much emphasis on memorisation and no emphasis on any involvement in society."

The social stigma that goes with the term "to serve" is dismissed by Nasser when he says "we do not serve anyone when we build social community centres; we lead the community, rather than serve it."

Changes in Jordanian society have visibly taken place in the last two decades and "people are more visibly productive today than they were in the past, but change also entails new danger."

Nasser points out that in the past "a father's goal was to see his son married, now he wants to see his university diploma. Priorities have shifted."

Now there is the danger of an overemphasis on post graduate degrees which produce too many academics and managers — the thinkers and to few mechanics, technicians and craftsmen — the doers.

"There is this danger of doing things for the sake of the title, for the prestige, there is a loss of substance."



Members of Earth First!, including its founder, David Foreman (third from bottom), in Federal Court in Phoenix last month after being charged with conspiring to sabotage Federal energy plants.

Worshipping mother Earth

By Jim Robbins

ON MAY 30, in the darkness of an Arizona desert evening, some 30 agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested two men and a woman who the authorities said were trying to topple a tower that carried high-voltage lines to the Central Arizona Project, a mammoth irrigation system opposed by many environmentalists.

The next morning David Foreman, a former farrier, was arrested at his home in Tucson, Ariz., and charged with the others with conspiring to sabotage Federal energy plants.

Mr. Foreman is the founder of Earth First!, a radical environmental group advocating a tactic called "monkey wrenching."

If the Federal charges are true, the foiled Arizona plot may be the most serious yet by a small but growing number of radical environmentalists who, frustrated with the political process, take direct, illegal action against what they see as environmentally destructive developments.

Since the publication in 1975 of Edward Abbey's novel "The Monkey Wrench Gang," which glorifies guerrillas who plot to blow up Glen Canyon Dam in Arizona, officials from the United States Forest Service, the Park Service and other agencies have reported a growing number of cases of environmental sabotage. Vandals have poured sand into the gas tanks of bulldozers in Utah, pounded metal spikes into trees to thwart loggers, and buried salt in a dirt airstrip in an Idaho wilderness so that moose and deer would dig holes in the runway.

"It's not terrorism and it's not vandalism," Mr. Foreman said in an interview last year. "It's a form of worship toward the Earth. It's really a very spiritual thing to go out and do."

But many others in the environmental movement regard Mr. Foreman's views and actions as dangerously counterproductive.

At the root of radical environmentalism is a philosophy called biocentrism, or "deep ecology," which holds that all life on the planet has a right to exist, and that humans have no right to dominate or destroy other forms of life.

While some like-minded groups — Greenpeace, for example — believe in non-violent direct actions such as hanging protest banners and sometimes engage in nonviolent civil disobedience, a few, much smaller groups like Earth First!, Sea Shepherd, Stump Suck and some animal rights groups take their outrage further and advocate violence against technology.

Thomas Lyons, a Forest Service special agent in Washington, D.C., said the kind of sabotage advocated by Earth First! has been growing for the past five years and that Forest Service agents are now taught ways to combat it.

"It's a difficult problem," said John Ruff, a Forest Service special agent in San Francisco. "You can't watch 20 million acres with 200 law enforcement officers."

Groups like Earth First! are "responding to corporate extremism," said Alston Chase, a Montana author who is finishing a book about radical environmentalists. "Corporate extremism begets environmental extremism."

Mr. Chase, who is also extremely critical of corporate and Park Service policies that he says damage the environment, said groups like Earth First! "believe that saving the environment will take nothing less than a cultural revolution."

He continued: "As the mainstream organisations have grown so enormously they've come to resemble the Federal bureaucracy they watch. They've shifted from activism to lobbying and litigation. A lot of people of the protest generation are impatient with them."

In the past, members of Earth First!, which was founded in 1980, were known mostly for their high-pitched rhetoric and acts of civil disobedience. Members have linked arms to block logging trucks and camped out on platforms in old-growth trees that were scheduled to be cut down. They have dressed as grizzly bears and blocked traffic to protest development at Yellowstone National Park and have rolled a plastic "crack" down the face of Glen Canyon dam in Arizona.

The FBI said the attempt to topple the Arizona tower was a trial run for the destruction of power lines that feed electricity to the Palo Verde nuclear power plant in Arizona, the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant in California and the Energy Department's Rocky Flats plutonium fabrication plant in Colorado.

The FBI said the three people arrested in the desert also cut down 29 power poles leading to three uranium mines in Arizona and cut down pylons supporting a ski lift near Flagstaff.

The group's leader, Mr. Foreman, is represented in the Arizona case by Gerry Spence, the Wyoming lawyer whose clients have included the family of Karen Silkwood, who sued the Kerr-McGee Corporation. Mr. Spence said the FBI has blown the Arizona incident far out of proportion and he denied that Mr. Foreman knew anything about a conspiracy.

In promoting his cause, Mr. Foreman has been arrested for civil disobedience four times and convicted three times. He wrote a book called "Ecodefense: A Field Guide to Monkey Wrenching," which describes tactics for disabling heavy machinery, toppling billboards, destroying helicopters and "miscellaneous devility."

Many environmentalists find this kind of activity annoying and believe that groups like Earth First! are hurting the rest of the movement. In 1987, Peter Steinhart, a contributing editor to Audubon magazine, wrote that tactics like sabotage are "the equivalent of Olie North, the cowboy colonel, who in the name of patriotism decided the laws were wrong." He added, "One form of lawlessness invites the other."

Murray Bookchin, who runs the Institute for Social Ecology in Plainfield, Vt., and who is working to form a Green Party in the United States, calls Earth First! members "eco-fascists."

"In its more extreme form, the way Dave Foreman expresses it, people are a cancer on the planet," Mr. Bookchin said. He said he is disturbed by articles in the Earth First! journal suggesting that immigration from Mexico hurts the American environment and that AIDS is a way for nature to regulate overpopulation.

"That's atavistic," he said. "It could lead to racism or cultural chauvinism. It's evil stuff no matter how well intentioned they may be." The New York Times.

The dignity and freedom of man are indivisible

On July 20, the Federal Republic of Germany pays tribute to the resistance against the Nazi regime of terror

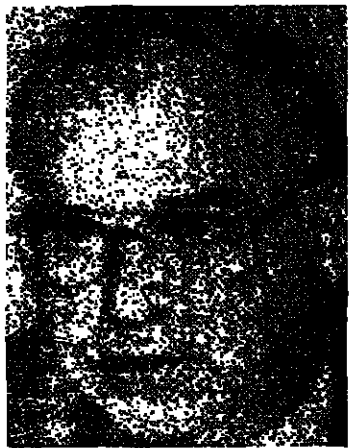
BONN (DPA) — "A courageous demonstration by the German resistance to the terror regime of the Third Reich," that's how Chancellor Kohl has described the attempt to assassinate Adolf Hitler on July 20, 1944, an effort to remove Hitler and — in the words of Helmut Kohl — "restore human dignity and freedom to Germany." The same year that is celebrating the 40th birthday of the Federal Republic of Germany is also marking the 45th anniversary of a day when men and women of the most varied outlooks and of very varied political convictions paid with their lives for their upstanding beliefs following a failed assassination attempt. Their executions, some of them taking place only weeks before the end of the Second World War, were preceded by sham trials.

This year again, the Republic will honour the co-conspirators and persons in the know — there were some 200 — who were taken into custody and executed for the message their deaths issued. In remembrance of the 20th of July 1944, Chancellor Kohl declared: "The resistance against the Nazi dictatorship remains for us an enduring admonition to respect the inviolable dignity of man and to preserve peace under freedom. This obligation to the freedom and dignity of man is indivisible and involves the entire German people. Therein lies the national duty to remember the 20th of July 1944."

The "revolt of conscience" against the increasingly apparent crimes of the national socialist regime had already begun shortly after Hitler's usurpation of power in 1933, when political undesirables and political opponents were arrested in large numbers, disappeared in concentration camps, or were "shot while trying to escape." As the cynical and stereotypical phrase went to conceal obvious murders of political opponents.

Despite massive surveillance by the feared secret police (Gestapo) and a network of informers, the organisation and coherence of numerous opposition underground groups remained intact until 1944.

Expectations of success in these circles mounted when resistance groups began to organise within the military. A letter by Major General Henning von



Helmut Kohl

Tresckow, later executed, to Count Claus Schenk von Stauffenberg, the Colonel who was Chief of Staff to the Commander of the Reservist Army and who would subsequently set the time bomb that was to have killed the "Führer" during a strategy session on July 20, 1944 but which only injured him, reveals the convictions at work. Tresckow wrote: "The attempt on Hitler's life must be carried out, whatever the price. Even if it doesn't succeed, a coup d'etat must be attempted. The important thing is no longer the immediate practical goal, but that the German resistance can show the world and history that it risked its lives to strike the decisive blow. Next to that, everything else is irrelevant."

These lines reveal the spirit of the resistance and make clear that the conspirators subordinated their lives to the spirit of freedom and justice, that in the darkest hours they thought of the dawn they would never live to see. It is this attitude which all concerned shared and which allied them, regardless of their varied visions of a postwar Germany. The inscription on the memorial to the victims of the 20th July in the courtyard of what was once the so-called "Bender Block" in Berlin, the former seat of the military administration where the immediate circle of conspirators was shot, states it aptly: "You did not bear the infamy, you gave the great eternal vigilant sign of return, sacrificing your ardent lives for liberty, justice, and honour."

Stauffenberg's bomb killed a fellow general, a colonel, and a stenographer, men who succumbed to their grave injuries. Only one of the two kilos of

explosive could be detonated, and the attaché case containing the bomb was too far away from Hitler: the crowding around the map table was too large.

Compounding the tragedy of the failed attempt was the fact that co-conspirators in Berlin's Wehrmacht leadership sent a telex to the German military leadership in Paris with the text "The Führer is dead" almost at the same time as German radio stations went on the air to announce that Hitler would soon speak to the German people. The official phraseology described the conspirators as a "small clique of ambitious officers." Even the national socialist leadership did not fully recognise the true scope of the expectations and goals of the various resistance groups in their attempt on Hitler's life on July 20, 1944 until the trials against the rebels got under way.

Political scientist Professor Peter Steinbach, writing on the occasion of an exhibition about the military resistance to Hitler and the Nazi regime, phrased it as follows: "The national socialists honoured this shared ambition by persecuting and punishing all supporters of German resistance in the same fashion. They made no distinctions with regard to the degree of dissidence or resistance, of non-conformism, or of intent to overthrow."

The national socialist organs of oppression now directed their efforts at the "confidence and integrity of the resistance movement." The latter was characterised by the resoluteness with which many of those arrested in the wake of the 20th of July castigated the evil deeds of the German leadership and their minions and demanded punishment. The national socialists became even more insecure because they recognised that the resistance wasn't out for revenge but instead sought penitence and atonement, an acceptance of guilt through punishment of the guilty. In the words of Steinbach: "Its supporters overcame the fear of death which they, like every human being, experienced by looking beyond the day of their deaths to conceive of a postwar society that would be the very antithesis of the Nazi state."

Stauffenberg, who was shot in the very night of his attempt following his arrest in Berlin, had written in a "concept paper" which fell into the hands of the Gestapo that "the current regime has no right to draw the entire German people into its perdition."

Eberhard Nitschke



Surprisingly few Tunisians, even in the Islamic camp, have come out against Antenne 2, though a few leftists see French colonialism slipping in the backdoor.

Foreign T.V. turns Tunisian audiences on

By Abdelaziz Barrouhi
Reporter

TUNIS — Once a staunch advocate of a new information order to combat cultural imperialism, Tunisia is now invaded from the sky by some 20 European television stations.

Tunisians just love it. The star newcomer is the French television channel Antenne 2, which began broadcasting on the Tunisian state network when French President Francois Mitterrand visited in June. In Tunisia, as the slogan goes, Antenne 2 "turns the audience on."

Constantly unhappy with their own national Arabic-language channel, Tunisians, many of whom speak French fluently, have found in the French channel a new window to the world. Alongside the Italian channel Rai Uno, which people in the north have been picking up since the start of the 1960s.

"It's like a hole in a bolted door, through which one can see what's happening abroad," said journalist Mohamed Guelbi.

"It holds my kids captive from the early afternoon onwards. At least it keeps them off the street and out of trouble," said Fatma Slimi, a housewife in the southern city of Sfax.

"At last our children are going to make some progress in their

French," added Najat Guedouar, a French teacher in the suburbs of Tunis.

Liberals see Antenne 2 as political education, to strengthen secularism and counteract the influence of Tunisia's Islamic movement. "It will help broaden people's minds, they're going to see how a democracy really functions," said one.

For the French government, which is paying all the costs, the channel is a means to reinforce the dominance of French against the challenges of Italian, English and the Tunisian government's own arabisation efforts.

The advertising indirectly helps to sell French goods and maintain France's position as Tunisia's major trading partner.

As part of the package, Paris has promised \$24 million to modernise the Tunisian broadcasting network and \$6.4 million to finance local production of television programmes.

The Italian government had earlier given a similar grant, of \$24 million to extend reception of Rai Uno to the south and west of Tunisia.

The Tunisian network carries almost all of Antenne 2's production but for about two hours a day the channel broadcasts Tunisian material, including the main evening news in French.

Slah Maouia, director general of Tunisian radio and television,

says there is no censorship. "We only intervene to replace broadcasts of purely French interest or of second-rate quality," he said.

But often these programmes are the political debates which the liberals would like Tunisians to see, said one official familiar with broadcasting policy.

Surprisingly few Tunisians, even in the Islamic camp, have come out against Antenne 2, though a few leftists see French colonialism slipping in the backdoor.

The other 18 or so European and American channels beaming down on Tunisia from satellite are available only to those rich enough to pay out between \$3,160 and 5,900 for a satellite dish and converter.

Despite the high cost, more than 450 satellite dishes have been installed in Tunisia over the past three years, most of them in private homes, a telecommunications (PTT) official said.

"It's an irresistible trend backed by powerful advertising. Even if the government wanted to stem the flow, there's technically nothing we can do," said one PTT engineer.

A drive round the smarter suburbs of Tunis shows the dishes are sprouting fast, on the roofs of the homes of bankers, businessmen, diplomats — and government ministers.



Focus on People

Food for thought

By Mariam M. Shahin

This week Dr. Ali Othman, technical advisor at the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF), talks to Focus on People about the importance of quality education.

SOCIAL development and education are two subjects which seem to receive never-ending media attention in Jordan due to constant seminars and conferences. To the general public these conferences and seminars may appear to be nothing more than another attempt by bureaucrats to look important. However, regardless of the apparent superficiality that many accord to talks and discussions in fancy academic journals, the two subjects are genuinely important, even crucial, to the improvement of our society. This is the impression of a veteran in education and Islamic thought.

Dr. Ali Othman, who holds a Ph.D in philosophy from the University of Chicago, may be described as a social thinker and commentator, rather than just another heavy paper bureaucrat. Despite the long list of impressive positions that he has held in both international and regional organisations and institutions, Othman seems to have remained true to the beliefs that have been imprinted on his mind since childhood.

"The early years in any person's life are the most important — this is a basic concept," Othman said. Many basic concepts have to be glorified through academic research and publications these days, as is the case even with breastfeeding of babies. So somehow even social thinkers such as Othman can channel their theories only through already established institutions.

In his capacity as technical advisor at the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund, Othman is now working on two main projects. One is a programme that would train kindergarten teachers ("the earlier the education in a child's life the more important it is"). The second is a programme to train community development workers.

Othman feels that in these two areas the Arab World still imitates the West. He also points out that many of our society's needs are not anywhere close to being met.

"Schools in the Arab World breed alienation from the community, they inculcate an orientation to urbanisation and cultures that are not our own. Education means the engagement of human potentials, intelligence as well as our moral and esthetic values. The curricula are not localised. A student in Jordan may graduate from a university and still know very little about his own community, not to mention his community's needs," Othman says. Although many are "surely concerned" about their community's development, few have any actual idea about what to do to bring about a change.

"Many are not even aware what the issues of development entail," he says. Othman maintains that there is a blind inertia to the system Jordan and other countries inherited from their colonisers. "School subjects," he points out, "were given in an abstract form — unrelated to developmental needs."

Human values are acquired at home, rather than at school, in our society, and our education never allows for a critical analysis of the values, according to Othman. "But if what we have is really education, then schools should be teaching children to critically analyse what they have been taught. We tend to be traditional in what we think are values, but in order to be morally convinced and committed, we need at least to have critically analysed our traditions. We may very well discover that our traditional values are good — but if we do, we will not be imitating; we will act out of conviction, not social pressures."

It is during the pre-school stage that a child forms a great deal of his mental abilities, as well as his moral attitudes and values. What is formed is likely to remain with the individual for the rest of his life. Therefore, society owes it to children to give them extra attention during those critical years.

Othman feels that "when we were children (some 60 years ago), we did not have material possessions. Most of us did not even have shoes, but compared to the life of children today we were free to be away from adults and to discover ourselves."

Othman correlates the "children's gangs" of his childhood to the children of the intifada today.

"The children of the intifada like the children in my generation had an education whereby he was made to feel important to his family — thus an important person, and someone of whom things were expected. He had a responsibility to his family and his society." The children of the intifada may have understood that in a very real way. "The fact that we were made to feel important and responsible motivated us to seek the higher goals that life offered and not to succumb to the domination of others," Othman says. The goals that life offered may have changed over the years, but the motivation remained the same. Education then as now is very much the "higher goal."

According to Othman as more traditional entities that give a community strength, such as tribalism, recede, education becomes a vehicle for the achievement of other goals, such as economic and social status.

Despite all this emphasis on education in our society, "education is not yet a major factor in relating knowledge to know-how. Most people are still ignorant about what's really happening in our society," Othman says. In other words, education should have resolved this lag between knowledge and know-how, but has so far failed to do so. The role of Islamic teaching in our education system could be very useful and progressive if properly adapted. According to Othman, however, Islam, "which defines itself as 'insabirah' meaning an open, broad possession of oneself is being stunted by the 'masks' that Arab societies have chosen to hide behind."

Othman explains, "post-Islamic society was an amalgam of many contradictory traditions. A mixture of ancient despotism, family authoritarianism, tribalism and priesthood (a tradition that claimed to guard and define right from wrong) descended upon Islam to misguide its followers. Islam had come to liberate these traditions, but once it left greater Arabia, these traditions of priesthood and authoritarianism which had come from Byzantium and Persia tainted the aim of Islam and in many ways distorted it."

According to Othman "until today some of our ulama are disguised priests, for they promote a code of conduct without the use of critical thought, which is contrary to the teaching of Islam. There are three fundamental tenets of Islam that seem to have been overlooked by many of our ulama the namely universality of knowledge, humanity and God. The human beings have been endowed with the intelligence to discern true from false and to discover the oneness of God by themselves."

Our history has thus emphasised behaviour rather than thought, which is an inertia of traditions rather than intelligent conviction. The original environment of Islam had no centralised government, no religious organisation to impose right or wrong, and, thus, the individual was free of the formal authority of other humans. It was through these given pre-requisites that the Arabs could choose to abandon tribalism and commit themselves to the universality that is Islam," Othman explains.

"The Prophet Mohammad, unlike any other prophet, had direct disciples which were not of his tribe or race. He broke the walls that had been created by despotism and tribalism."

With these fundamentals in mind, imagine what kind of educational system we could have.

Jordan Times
Telephone: 667171-4



The ephemeral art of wallpaper, a mirror of the past

By Andre Boudios

PARIS — Wallpaper, which is more fragile than the wool of tapestries or the wood of panelling, has nevertheless left us numerous examples of its ephemeral decor. It was more fragile, but often less expensive, and so it was changed more often, better espousing the development in taste, the whims of fashion or even modernity. Its dual artistic and historical interest can therefore be understood.

Let us rapidly trace its history. A decree, in 1597, attests to the existence of "manufacturers of paper intended for wall-coverings and other ornaments."

These modest beginnings were the work of coloured-paper manufacturers, who used blocks to print sheets coloured through stencils with distemper and sold flat in lots of 25 sheets. The dictionary of commerce of 1723 points out the growing fashion for this kind of wall-covering "which is no longer reserved for country people or the humble classes of Paris, but which, at the end of the 17th century, was carried to such a point of perfection and elaboration that, in addition to the commissions sent abroad and to the major towns in France, there is no house in Paris, however magnificent it might be, which does not have a place, either a wardrobe or even a more secret place, which is not papered and rather pleasantly decorated with it."

The first half of the 18th century is well illustrated by the Papillon dynasty. In addition to a treatise on wood cuts, the third Papillon left drawings which were to illustrate the entry on "wallpaper" in Diderot's encyclopaedia. In these drawings, we follow him in his workshop "having both to print our wallpaper

and to colour them when I was not engraving the printing-blocks, and to go to grand houses to hang them."

Wallpaper imported from China by the Compagnie des Indes led to new developments and new exotic inspiration. Around 1760, the 25 sheets began to be sold joined and to end in rolls 10 metres 80 centimetres long and the width of the sheet of paper, that is to say 20 inches (0.54 metres). These dimensions were to stay in use until 1840, the beginning of the first industrial era.

At the same period, colour printing as that used in calico printing replaced colouring. Flock wallpaper also appeared, resembling velvet by spraying wool clippings coming from the shearing of cloth. These innovations together with a perpetual renewal of style were to take the wallpaper industry to its apex during the second half of the 18th century.

This period is illustrated, in particular, by Jean-Baptiste Reillon, who was born in 1724, became an apprentice in 1738, a mate in 1741 and set up in business on his own account in Rue de l'Arbre Sec in 1724. First he employed ten workers and then shortly 80 when he moved to Rue de Montreuil. His big output led to his going into partnership with a Dame de la Garde who owned a papermill in Courtaim where he was to produce a wave of paper as fine as English wave paper. In 1785 Necker awarded him a gold medal. Unfortunately he was ruined in 1789, when his "Manufacture Royal" was pillaged.

Two revolutionaries, Bonard and Jacquemard took over Reillon's installations and produced a few "republican" wallpapers. But the Directoire rejected the orders made by the

Convention. The upheavals of society, the abolishment of the guilds, civil unrest and permanent war led to a slump. However, the empire was aware of the economic stake and applied an efficient policy which soon bore fruit.

A new design had to be quickly established. It was the triumph of trompe-l'oeil. All fabrics were reproduced and even their folds. The first panoramic scenes appeared with the "Battle of Austerlitz." New workshops sprung up in many towns including Bordeaux and Lyons. In Alsace, in Rixheim, Zuber, which still exists and has kept the original printing-blocks, is able to reissue identical wall-papers. At the 1804 Salon, Joseph Dufour scored a success with his panorama of "The Savages of the Pacific Sea," based on Cook's travels. Many others were to follow until 1830, taking their themes from history, literature and landscape painting.

The technical developments of the 19th century were to bring no artistic improvement. The Second Empire showed its habitual eclecticism. Only Art Nouveau in 1900, and Art Deco in 1925 were to produce a new creations representing their period.

In order to conjure up this prestigious past, Madame Francoise Teynac, the director of the "Louvre des Antiquaires" (Antiques shopping centre) has organised an attractive exhibition presenting wall-papers on loan from the Rixheim museum successfully juxtaposed with furniture from the same period, provided by the antique dealers of the "Louvre des Antiquaires."

In addition to its initial aim of promoting the "Louvre des Antiquaires," this fine exhibition gives a magnificent illustration of French taste — French features.

Microsurgery: Truth may meet fiction

By Philippa Neave

PARIS — The victim, a French technician, was out at sea working on an oil drilling platform off Saudi Arabia when a cable became entangled around his arm and ripped his whole hand off; 17 hours and a continent later, he was lying on the operating table at Paris' Boucicaut Hospital, where surgeons were "reimplanting" his hand. "Somebody had the presence of mind to keep the hand, and on the emergency plane that was sent out from Paris, our surgeon was able to work on it and prepare it for reimplantation," explained Professor Jean-Pierre Lemerle, chief of the microsurgery department at the Boucicaut Hospital. The patient, who has since recovered the use of his hand, was only one of the estimated 3,000 people who benefit each year from surgeons' new-found ability to successfully reattach severed limbs, hands and fingers at France's leading centre for this advanced technique.

"Microsurgery is a technique which consists in performing surgery under a microscope which enlarges the part of the body examined anywhere from 6 to 40 times," the 52-year-old professor said. "We work with an enlargement of between 12 to 16 times; higher enlargements are used to inspect the result of surgery."

Although the technique has been in use since the late 1960s, considerable progress has been made in recent years, and surgeons are now able to perform what looks like miracles in terms of rebuilding injured or malformed limbs. "The main area of progress has been the mapping of the body on a microscopic scale. Until recently anatomy books provided only large-scale, or at best, life-size images of the body. With the development of microsurgery, there was a need for images of minute parts of the body," Professor Lemerle said.

A pioneer of the technique and a leading expert in this field, he admits that he may soon have to

give up operating: "Beyond the age of 50 or so, you cannot continue, you're too old! We have to sew back together nerves that can be 12 times smaller than a hair. You must have perfect eyesight, an extremely steady hand, and the capacity to concentrate hard for up to 8 hours at a time, and with age you begin to lose it." Professor Lemerle still operates at least three times a week, but he is beginning to spend more and more time teaching younger surgeons the secrets of his art in the operating room.

During a recent interview he spoke with disconcerting ease and simplicity about his work, making it all sound easy. He explained, for example, how a surgeon can sew a severed nerve back together: "Under a microscope, a nerve measuring 0.3 mm in diameter that would be almost invisible to the naked eye, looks rather like an electrical wire: it has an outer tubing with lots of filaments inside. Observing the tiny blood vessels on the outer nerve 'tubing,' the surgeon turns the nerve around until the blood vessel patterns at either end match. Then he sews the 'tube' ends together and the nerve is mended." To do this surgeons use a special type of very fine, barely visible thread which is also quite expensive. "We do not use needles," Professor Lemerle added, "it would be far too clumsy. The end of the thread itself is dipped into a plant metal and serves as the needle."

Reimplanting a severed hand can take up to 12 hours, while it would take about 8 hours for a finger. With two arteries, numerous nerves, several tendons and millions of blood vessels, a hand is one of the most difficult challenges. Yet hand injuries are the most common. "In the Paris region alone, we count about 25,000 accidents in the work place involving hand injuries," Professor Lemerle said. "Add to that at least as many car accidents, plus accidents happening at the home, and we are talking about at least 100,000 injured



This patient of Professor Lemerle in Paris had his hand put back together after it was shattered by a bullet that entered

the palm, severely damaging the upper part of the hand as it exited. (WNL)

hands every year in the Paris region, and at least 500,000 for the country as a whole."

Manual workers like carpenters and industrial equipment operators are especially at risk and often suffer the worst types of injuries. According to statistics, work-related injuries are often caused by alcohol or drug abuse. Many accidents that occur at home could also be avoided. Professor Lemerle pointed out: "You cannot imagine how many people are rushed in here every spring with hands and fingers slashed off by lawn mowers! And weekend do-it-yourself handy-men often handle electric drills and saws that have no security features at all. Children of course are always at risk, especially boys who play with knives and firecrackers, and experiment with gun powder."

But children have the advan-

tage of responding best to microsurgery. "Until the teens, children's arteries, blood vessels and nerves are soft, and as a result healing capacity is much higher than with adults," Professor Lemerle said. "When arteries harden with age, it becomes extremely difficult, and when somebody is older than 50 it is almost impossible to operate."

Another factor is that certain parts of the body respond better than others, he added. Fingers, especially the index, can be reimplanted but results are not always satisfactory. "The reason is that there will always be a stiffness in the finger. A manual labourer will tend to use this finger and he will keep sticking it out upright, which only increases the risk of getting it caught in machinery once more."

"We don't often reimplant a single finger, except on women —

for aesthetic reasons — because a stiff finger can be more of a handicap than no finger at all," the professor noted. The lower limbs also present special problems, he added. Since bones splinter when they break off, surgeons often must cut the broken bone at either end so there is the widest possible contact area for the two ends to grow back together. The operation often shortens the limb so much that the imbalance and limp that result can be very debilitating. "But if an arm is 2 inches shorter than the other, it does not really matter; in fact it barely shows," Professor Lemerle said.

Among the most common accidents are injuries to the thumb, which is considered the most important finger of the hand. "Unfortunately in thumb injuries, the finger is usually too badly damaged, crushed or torn right off

and mangled for us to be able to reimplant it," he explained. "A fairly recent and generally successful solution has been to reimplant one of the patient's toes in place of his thumb. And I have seen cases in which aesthetically you could barely tell the difference."

A recent and extremely promising development in the field of microsurgery is a technique that involves reimplanting flaps of skin and muscle. Said Professor Lemerle, "We can now reimplant fairly substantial sections of muscles and skin taken, for example, from a patient's back and reimplant it on his badly damaged forearm; we can literally rebuild the arm, and we are constantly discovering more and more about how to match muscle texture and blood vessel patterns from one part of the body to another." — World News Link.

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- 1- AL MAWLED (Adel Imam) — (Arabic)
- 2- MONEY MANIA
- 3- BODY ROCK

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **RIJOUH** Tel: 675571

- 1) Heart Breakers
- 2) Scavengers

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

PINBALL SUMMER

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

مركز الأمل

Algerian joint venture law encounters stiff resistance

ALGIERS (R) — Proposed landmark legislation to attract more foreign investment to socialist Algeria faces stiff opposition, with some lawmakers saying the change would betray the country's principles.

The draft law — part of sweeping economic and political reforms launched after riots shook the country last October — would for the first time allow foreign firms a majority share in joint ventures with Algerian state-owned partners.

Finance Minister Sid Ahmed Ghezali told the National Assembly that the law was needed to spur economic development, hampered by falling world oil prices since the early 1980s and a crushing foreign debt burden.

A majority of the 50 deputies who spoke on the bill in a debate Tuesday opposed key points,

Algerian newspapers reported Wednesday.

If passed it would be a landmark for Algeria which since independence in 1962 has built its economy on ideological grounds of socialism and self-reliance.

The proposed law says an Algerian state partner must have a sufficient share of a joint venture to guarantee at least one place on the board. The media say this figure is 11 per cent.

Under existing law the Algerian partner must hold at least 51 per cent.

Another new feature of the draft allows for settlement of

disputes through international arbitration.

The Arabic-language daily *El Chaab* quoted deputies as saying, "We need to put before our eyes the fact that international investors are characterised by narrow and racist vision and make their investments in foreign countries for quick profit."

The official daily *El Moudjahid* commented: "The passion of the remarks has virtually led the debate on the joint venture law to a kind of impasse."

A number of deputies requested more information and debate on the law, scheduled for a vote on July 26.

Others supported the bill in principle, but said it should be limited to certain economic sectors, such as productive, high-technology investments.

Only seven joint ventures have been formed under current legislation, in the fields of telecommunications, tourism, automobile assembly and oil.

Ghezali, introducing the bill Monday, outlined the effects of world economic difficulties on Algeria and the need for foreign cash.

"It is a question of using, like all other countries of the world, the money of others, their know-how and skill to develop and learn to better exploit (Algeria's) economic potential," he said.

But Algerian radio quoted one deputy as saying that the ruling National Liberation Front, which controls the 300-seat assembly, "cannot back what is contrary to its principles and bring the country to catastrophe."

Leaders warn Sudanese to open businesses or die

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has told its businessmen to open their shops or face death.

"Those who wish to... widow their wives and render their children fatherless will only have to keep their stores shut, bakeries idle and vehicles hidden," said Khartoum deputy governor Lieutenant-Colonel Yousef Abdul Fatah.

Abdul Fatah's warning, repeatedly broadcast by state television Tuesday night, was aimed at shop-owners and taxi drivers who have failed to reopen their businesses since the Muslim Eid Al Adha feast ended Monday.

His outspoken remarks are the latest blow by Sudan's new leaders at the business community in an offensive that is sending shock waves through the troubled economy of one of the world's

poorest countries.

Bankers and Western economists said the iron-fist approach was largely responsible for the relative success of the anti-corruption drive, but it also alienated and worried businessmen.

The new leadership, which seized power June 30, has promised stiff penalties, including death, for those convicted of corruption during the three-year rule of deposed prime minister Sadeq Al Mahdi.

General Omar Hassan Al Bashir has said Mahdi will be tried on charges of corruption and might face a death sentence.

Army-led special tribunals and investigating committees are in action and the public has been urged to turn in documents or other evidence of corruption under Mahdi's civilian government.

As part of the drive, Khartoum's military government has fixed prices for basic items to stop profiteering and troops have raided warehouses where alleged hoarders kept their goods.

Businessmen said that scores of retail merchants had been fined or jailed in the past week alone for failing to report their stocks or for selling goods above the official prices.

People have until July 31 to deposit or convert foreign currency into Sudanese pounds or face the death penalty.

The bankers and economists said businessmen were holding on to earnings rather than going to banks. Wholesale trade had eased as many merchants were waiting to see what happened, they added.

This encouraged storages of basics such as sugar, cooking oil

and soap.

Sudan has been at war with rebels in the south since 1963 and was hard-hit last year by floods after years of drought. It has a foreign debt estimated at \$14 billion and inflation is running at an annual rate of 80 per cent.

The 15-man leadership has imposed an indefinite ban on all vehicle and real estate sales. Bankers said bank accounts of suspected blackmarketers had been frozen.

Businessmen must now show proof that they have paid taxes before they receive exit visas to travel abroad.

"The government has not done anything to give the private sector confidence," said an economist, adding that he doubted authorities could keep watch on market practices for long.

Economists expect Fed chief to point way to lower interest

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) will cut borrowing costs further if necessary to sustain seven years of economic expansion, but only in the cautious manner that is the hallmark of Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, economists say.

President George Bush expressed concern about a possible recession when he attended a summit of major industrial powers in Paris last weekend.

And over the past six weeks the Fed, the U.S. central bank, has responded to a flurry of weak domestic economic statistics by lowering interest rates by about half a percentage point.

But Greenspan is expected to tell Congress in scheduled testimony Thursday that a period of slower growth is the remedy needed to ease inflationary strains and that he will not be panicked into a precipitous drop in interest rates.

"He'll say the economy is slowing and that this is not bad news if the slowing stays within bounds,"

said Paul Boltz, an economist with T. Rowe Price Associates Inc., a Baltimore investment advisory firm.

Greenspan will map out the central bank's monetary policy for the next six months when he presents his so-called Humphrey-Hawkins testimony, a semi-annual economic report.

While Bush might be getting nervous about the economic slowdown, many analysts say Greenspan has reason to be pleased with himself.

"What Greenspan is going to do is toot his own horn," said Ward McCarthy of Stone and McCarthy Research Associates Inc. in Princeton, New Jersey. "He's going to say: 'Things are going our way.'"

Although price increases are still running well ahead of last year's 4.4 per cent average, many economists see evidence that inflation is close to peaking in response to the tight monetary policy that the Fed followed until this spring.

And the best guess is that the economy will not tumble into recession but glide to a soft landing of about two per cent growth this year — half the 3.9 per cent pace of 1988.

Because businesses and consumers respond with a lag to changes in interest rates, a number of experts suspect that the economy will snap back by the end of the year.

Apart from the half-point drop in the federal funds rate — the basic money market rate — to 9.25 per cent, 30-year bond yields have fallen even further to nearly eight per cent.

"With the decline in market rates, restraint is not all that great now," Boltz said. "The economy, all things being equal, should start to pick up soon."

Stephen Sliker of Shearson Lehman Brothers Inc. agreed.

"There are forces in place that will bring us out of this slowdown by the end of the year," Sliker said. He cited in particular a sharp drop since March in the one-year treasury bill rate on which adjustable-rate mortgage costs are based.



Alan Greenspan

But Sliker said the Fed will come under political pressure to ease credit further because figures are likely to point to little if any economic expansion this quarter after growth of an estimated 1.5 to 2.0 per cent in the April-June quarter.

The Fed will respond, albeit prudently, to weak economic news because it fears that a recession would on heavily indebted businesses, savings and loan institutions, farmers and developing countries, Sliker argued.

The government reported Wednesday U.S. inflation slowed in June as consumer prices rose a modest 0.2 per cent, the smallest advance in 16 months.

The price moderation reflected the biggest drop in energy prices

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

France, UAE sign tax agreement

ABU DHABI (AP) — France and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Wednesday signed an accord to avoid dual taxation between the two countries, official sources reported. The agreement was aimed at encouraging investment in both states, said Ahmad Al Tayer, minister of state for financial and industrial affairs. Trade volume between the two countries is about 180 million dirhams (\$680 million), official sources said. The accord covered individual investments as well as private and public institutions in the two countries, finance ministry officials said. The oil-rich UAE has no income tax and this is the first accord designed to guarantee equal treatment for its petrodollar investments abroad. The taxation accord bars personal income, company profit tax or any inherited capital to be taxed in either country, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity. It would lead in certain cases to a resident of either of the countries becoming taxable only in his country of residence for some categories of income, dividends or capital gains, the sources said. UAE investments in France are estimated at 6-8 billion dirhams (\$1.6-\$2.2 billion), and French investment in the UAE is about the same.

Bahrain to build new satellite station

NICOSIA (R) — Japan's Sumitomo Corporation has won a contract to build a new satellite earth station in Bahrain. The million-dollar (\$2.6 million) station is part of a plan to expand and improve Bahrain's communications network and will replace a station built 20 years ago. The Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency said the deal, signed in Bahrain Tuesday, is expected to be completed in July 1990.

Judge accuses minister of smuggling

CARACAS (R) — Argentina's new economy minister Nestor Rapanelli is wanted on smuggling and other charges arising from wheat transactions between Venezuela and an Argentine company, a Caracas judge handling the case said Tuesday. An arrest order for Rapanelli, who was only named to his post at the weekend, was sent out on May 26 in connection with his activities as a general director of Grandes Molinos Venezolanos, Judge Luis Guillermo La Riva Lopez said in an announcement to the press. Rapanelli is accused of taking part in activities in which Gramoven, a subsidiary of the Argentine grain company Bunge Y Borne, overcharged Venezuela for wheat imported to the country between 1983 and 1988, La Riva said. In Buenos Aires, Argentine President Carlos Menem defended his minister against similar charges in the Caracas newspaper *Diario De Caracas*. Menem said Rapanelli, who Monday signed an agreement with Argentine businessmen to freeze prices for 90 days in a bid to stem hyperinflation, had proof that charges against him had been dismissed.

Iran to lift ban on foreign exchange dealers

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran's foreign exchange dealers, outlawed by the government since the 1979 revolution, will be allowed to resume business to counter the flourishing black market, the official news agency IRNA reported Wednesday.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted the independent monthly magazine, *Eqtasad*, Farsi for economy, as saying that reliable sources indicated that the move was designed to "end the present undesirable situation."

IRNA quoted the magazine as saying that the move by the state-run central bank was "expected to create order" on the money market.

The magazine quoted its sources as saying the foreign exchange dealers will be allowed to operate under strict regulations to be set by the government's Money and Credit Council, IRNA reported.

At present, Iranian travellers needing foreign currency have to buy it from the blackstreet dealers at 15 times the official exchange rate.

Most of the dealers operate flourishing illegal businesses around downtown Tehran's Ferdowsi Square.

Since foreign exchange is in short supply in Iran's flagging economy, the government does not provide any currency at the official exchange rates.

But a limited amount of foreign exchange is officially sold to travellers at black market rates. Legalising the foreign exchange dealers has been under discussion for some time. Some Iranian businessmen have suggested that the move was designed to let the government set up its own exchanges to benefit from the high, black market rates.

Although Iran insists on keeping its currency artificially inflated at 70 riyals to the dollar, a dollar sells at about 1,000 riyals on the black market.

Meanwhile, Toyo Menka Kaisha Ltd. (TOMEN), of Japan said Tuesday it paid \$150 million in advance for an estimated 10 million barrels of Iranian crude oil.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, July 19, 1989		Swiss franc	347.7	351.2
Central Bank official rates		French franc	88.6	89.7
		Japanese yen (for 100)	402.2	406.2
		Dutch guilder	267.1	269.8
		Swedish crown	88.2	89.1
		Italian lira (for 100)	41.6	42.0
		Belgian franc (for 10)	143.9	145.3
U.S. dollar	Buy	Sell		
Pound Sterling	572.0	578.0		
Deutsche mark	925.6	924.9		
	301.5	304.3		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6190/6200	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1885/95	Canadian dollar
	1.9000/10	Deutsche mark
	2.1440/50	Dutch guilders
	1.6440/55	Swiss francs
	39.76/81	Belgian francs
	6.4500/50	French francs
	1375/1376	Italian lire
	141.35/65	Japanese yen
	6.4850/4900	Swedish crowns
	6.9630/80	Norwegian crowns
	7.3800/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	371.30/371.80	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — The share market closed higher in line with a falling Australian dollar. The All Ordinaries index closed 6.2 points up at 1571.2.

TOKYO — Index-linked buying by trust funds lit a fire under the market in the afternoon. The Nikkei index gained 213.44 to close at 33,537.17.

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's main share price indicator closed at its highest level since China's June 4 military crackdown. The Hang Seng rose 41.62 to 2,547.10.

SINGAPORE — The market closed on a firm note with prices generally higher in brisk trading. The Straits Times industrial index rose 7.41 to 1,369.02.

BOMBAY — Share prices rose for the second day on hectic short-covering in anticipation of large institutional demand. Brokers said the state-owned Unit Trust of India was expected to start investing the funds it collects through sale of units.

FRANKFURT — West German shares vaulted to new 1989 highs in brisk trade, rebounding from their recent malaise on strong demand for blue chips. The real-time 30-share DAX index surged 1.3 per cent or 19.75 points to close at 1,540.40.

ZURICH — A lower dollar dampened the market but the all-share Swiss performance index gained 5.4 points to 1,131.7. Interest concentrated on chemical firms which dealers said are expected to report sensational results for 1989.

PARIS — French shares were broadly unchanged with little corporate news to stimulate an already thin market. At midday the 30-share Cote index was 0.14 per cent higher.

LONDON — Investors seemed reluctant to sell because of rumours about take-over bids. "There are lots of stories but nothing concrete," a dealer said. At 1506 GMT the FTSE was 24.9 higher at 2297.

NEW YORK — Blue chips rose on a smaller-than-expected rise in June consumer prices. At 1508 GMT the Dow Jones industrial average was 27.51 higher at 2,572.27.

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- 4- Ability to prepare professional reports and business letters.
- 5- Good communication skills and ability to work on own initiative.

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Dahlat Al-Amir Rashid, Jordan
P.O. Box 310

M.A., M.Sc. and Ph.D. (ESP/EFL)

Dissertations and theses

A researcher working with a British university is currently conducting a research on M.A., M.Sc. & Ph.D. (English for Specific Purposes — ESP and English as a Foreign Language — EFL) dissertations and theses written by Jordanian researchers (between 1980 - 1989) in Jordan and abroad.

Any help that can be extended to this researcher is deeply appreciated. Related materials such as: copies of dissertations/theses abstracts; authors and titles; tables of contents; summaries & conclusions; suggestions and recommendations, etc., etc.

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مطابق الأصل

Former AL star shoots wife, kills himself

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Former California Angels pitcher Donnie Moore shot his wife several times and then shot himself in the head Tuesday in an apparent murder-suicide attempt, police said.

Anaheim police Lt. Marc Hedgpeth, who confirmed that the dead man was Moore, said Moore's wife, Tonya, suffered multiple gunshot wounds and was driven to Kaiser Permanente hospital by her 17-year-old daughter.

Tonya Moore was listed in critical condition, said hospital spokeswoman Donna Donnan-Draner.

The 35-year-old Moore, a reliever who was released last month by the Kansas City Royals' minor-league team in Omaha, had been plagued by injuries during his last years in the majors and saw yet another comeback attempt end when he was released by the Royals' organization.

Moore's New York agent, however, said his client had not given up on his career, although Moore was still depressed over his performance in the 1986 AL playoffs.

Dave Pinter said he spoke with his client by telephone early Tuesday afternoon, but got no indication anything was wrong. "He seemed fine," the agent said. "We were just going over everything in general. He was running, lifting weights, just trying to get his comeback in order."

But recent domestic and career problems had depressed Moore, who separated from his wife of 16 years about a month ago, Pinter said.

Moore was released from the Angels in 1988, two years after he carried California to within one strike of the 1986 world series.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

ITALIANS CRUSH GERMAN FOOTBALL SQUAD: The Legnano Frogs crushed the Cologne Red Barons 49-15 at home in the opening game of the Eurobowl American football tournament. Running back Scott Whitehouse of Salt Lake City, Utah, paced the Frogs, piling up 216 yards (197 metres) in total offense in Wednesday night's game. By the end of the first quarter, the Frogs had taken a lead of 21-7 over the West Germans. The Frogs won a place in Saturday night's final. They will face the winner of the game between the Amsterdam Crusaders of the Netherlands and Finland's Helsinki Roosters. The tournament pits Europe's leading amateur teams. (AP)

ITALIAN CHIEF TO GET TOUGH WITH HOOLIGANS: The head of Italy's soccer federation has announced in Rome tough new measures to stamp out violence a year before the country hosts the World Cup. "Soccer club presidents will have to help us smash the conspiracy of silence around violent offenders," Antonio Matarrese told officials on late Tuesday at the presentation of next season's fixtures for the Italian championship. He said "drastic and unpopular" measures would include holding soccer clubs responsible for clashes even outside the home team stadiums. Matarrese said the federation would also toughen sanctions against players and officials who directly or indirectly incited fan violence by making inflammatory statements. Players and coaches would be suspended and clubs disqualified, he said. Last season was marked by almost weekly clashes among fans from first division sides.

Baseball standings

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	33	38	.462	—
New York	46	26	.638	13 1/2
Toronto	46	26	.638	13 1/2
Boston	43	29	.597	16 1/2
Cleveland	43	29	.597	16 1/2
Minnesota	42	30	.583	17 1/2
Detroit	33	38	.462	20
West Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
California	54	38	.587	—
Oakland	55	39	.585	—
Kansas City	53	40	.570	1 1/2
Texas	50	42	.543	4 1/2
Seattle	45	47	.489	9 1/2
Minnesota	45	47	.489	9 1/2
Chicago	37	56	.398	17 1/2
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Montreal	53	40	.570	—
Chicago	49	43	.533	3 1/2
New York	48	43	.527	4 1/2
St. Louis	46	45	.517	6 1/2
Pittsburgh	38	51	.427	13 1/2
Philadelphia	36	54	.400	15 1/2

Lemond keeps yellow jersey

BRIANCON, France (AP) — Greg Lemond extended his lead Tuesday as the Tour De France entered its final week, with the American taking fourth in the 16th stage.

Lemond, making a comeback after two seasons of injuries and misfortune since winning in 1986, gained 13 seconds on Laurent Fignon of France. Lemond now has a 53-second advantage with five stages left.

Pedro Delgado of Spain, last year's champion and fast becoming a major worry for Lemond, came in with Lemond and stayed 2-48 behind.

The 16th leg started from gap and had two steep climbs before a rapid descent to Briancon. The distance was 174 kilometers (108 miles).

Pascal Richard of France won the stage in 4 hours, 46 minutes, 45 seconds with another Frenchman, Bruno Cornillet, second.

Charly Mottet of France, still third in the overall standings,

sprinted at the finish to gain third just ahead of Lemond and Delgado in a group less than five minutes behind Richard.

Wednesday's stage is the most difficult of the 23-day race. It has four major climbs, including the

first one to the peak of L'Alpe d'Huez, more than 1800 metres (5904 feet) high.

Following that are two more days of lesser difficulties in the Alps, then a relatively flat leg Saturday with a final time trial from Versailles to Paris Sunday.



Trouble and pain: Scotland's Robert Miller and Spain's Pedro Delgado struggle through a gruelling mountain stage.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ 72 ♥ QJ83 ♦ J54 ♣ QJ1043

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ Q9862 ♥ 7 ♦ Q86532 ♣ 95

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ AK97632 ♥ 73 ♦ AQ76 ♣ Void

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ 764 ♥ A9 ♦ 842 ♣ AKJ76

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♠ 1 ♥ 1 ♠ 2 ♥

Pass Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ 6 ♥ J105 ♦ A184 ♣ AQ9852

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ K5762 ♥ KQ5 ♦ Q7 ♣ 953

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?

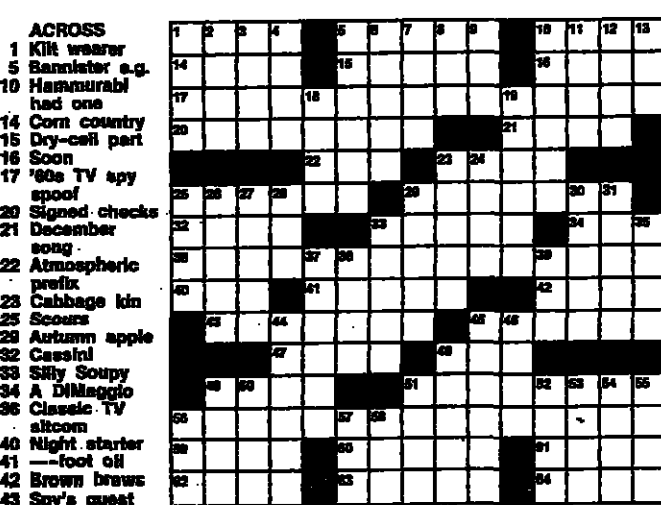
What do you bid now?

Look for answers on Monday.

For information about Charles Goren's newsletter for bridge players, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426.

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword by Harvey L. Chew



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS
1. Kit wear
2. Sausage e.g.
10. Hamster
14. Corn country
15. Dry-cell part
16. Soon
17. 1980s TV spy spoof
20. Signed checks
21. December song
22. Atmospheric prefix
23. Cabbage kin
24. Scour
25. Autumn apple
32. Casual
33. Silly Soupy
34. A Dilligally
36. Classic TV sitcom
40. Night starter
41. Foot oil
42. Brown beans
43. Spy's quest
45. Postulate
47. It's nothing
48. Epoch
49. History's need
51. Noteworthy
58. 70s TV police drama
59. Actor Conrad
60. Star clear of
61. De-wrinkle
62. HBB builders
63. Inventor
64. Hobbit
65. DOWN
1. Where it's at
2. Attorney Roy
3. Had to pay
4. Shantytown
5. Person's
6. Use deduction
7. Foul boss
8. Tokyo's former
9. Sleep phenom
10. They get padded
11. In the past
12. Talking toy
13. Comp. pt.
14. Musical native
15. Hedger's word
16. Metric weight
17. All over
18. Cuddly
19. Toucan's
20. Isomile
21. Fix a bow
22. Cry of
23. elegant
24. Hankers for
25. Fred's sister
26. Tangle
27. Shoe on wheels
28. Helios
29. West
30. Sign up
31. What GATs do
32. Give off
33. Garden of Eden
34. Spore-like alternative
35. Business list
36. Mail away
37. Benefit
38. What GATs do
39. Give off
40. Garden of Eden
41. Spore-like alternative
42. Business list
43. Mail away
44. Benefit
45. What GATs do
46. Give off
47. Garden of Eden
48. Spore-like alternative
49. Business list
50. Mail away
51. Benefit
52. What GATs do
53. Give off
54. Garden of Eden
55. Spore-like alternative
56. Business list
57. Mail away
58. Benefit
59. What GATs do
60. Give off
61. Garden of Eden
62. Spore-like alternative
63. Business list
64. Mail away
65. Benefit

Peanuts



BY JOHNNY HART



Andy Capp



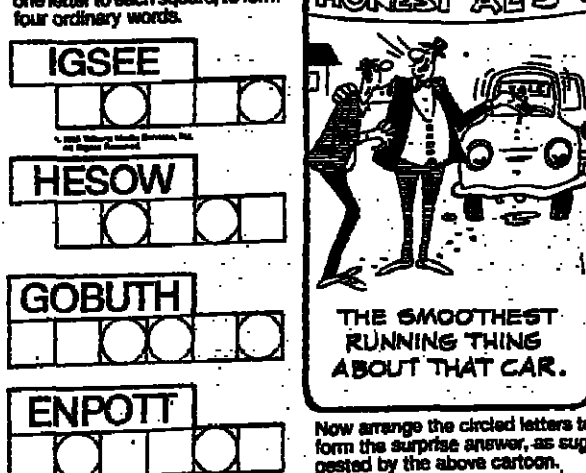
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"I'm not sure. It's either month-old lettuce or year-old bologna."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Aron and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: _____

Saturday's Jumbles: ENJOY PRIME SPICE THORAX

Answer: Is this the best lubricant for furniture wheels? — CASTER OIL.

مكتبة الأمل



A sign at the Peking Sheraton informs guests about the government ban on foreign periodicals.

China arrests journalists, activists as purge goes on

PEKING (R) — China's purge of dissidents is continuing with several more journalists and pro-democracy activists around the country being arrested, Chinese sources and provincial reports reaching Peking Wednesday said.

State media have abruptly stopped announcing mass round-ups of "counter-revolutionaries" in what diplomats say may be an attempt to deflect foreign criticism, but several thousand alleged "rioters," pro-democracy activists and dissident intellectuals are believed to be held.

The sources said one of the latest to be detained was Dai Qing, a journalist for the intellectual newspaper *Guangming Daily*. She was prominent in the democracy movement and named in government accounts of the "counter-revolutionary rebellion" as Peking calls the unrest.

A colleague at the newspaper said Wednesday Dai had not come to work since last week but would neither confirm nor deny the report of her arrest.

At the People's Daily, where reporters broke with their traditional role as the Communist Party's mouthpiece and joined marches to demand press freedom in May, at least two young

reporters have been arrested, the sources said.

They were seized by security officials at the paper's vast walled compound in east Peking, the sources said.

The paper's director and editor-in-chief were removed from their posts and an army propaganda official placed in charge soon after the bloody crushing of democracy protests in June.

Several other reporters and editors from national newspapers are believed by colleagues to be under arrest, but there has been no definite word of their fate.

"Some people have simply disappeared. No one dares mention their name when they stop coming to work," one editor said.

Provincial radio reports, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation and available in Peking Wednesday, announced the arrests of anti-government activists in Hefei, east China and Changchun in the northeast earlier this month.

Yang Fang, a Hefei engineering student, was detained for "counter-revolutionary dissemination and incitement," a local radio report said.

"He actively took part in secret meetings ... engineered class

boycotts and strikes, and erected road barricades to block traffic."

After the military invasions of Peking June 3 and 4, Yang set up a broadcasting station called the "Voice of the People" outside Hefei's city government building, airing Voice of America radio reports and other "rumours," it said.

"He had photographs of the alleged military crackdown on students developed and printed and distributed them in an attempt to achieve the goal of toppling the People's Republic."

In Changchun, police smashed a "counter-revolutionary clique" of workers at a motor vehicle factory, a local radio report said.

It said Tang Yuanjun and five others had been arrested for plotting a citywide strike to overthrow the Communist Party.

Provincial announcements of arrests of "counter-revolutionaries" have gone virtually unreported in the national media since late June.

The official New China News Agency did however report the arrest in Shanghai Tuesday of Yang Wei, a prominent U.S.-educated dissident who was released from two years in prison last January.

Indian Tamil leader rallies behind Gandhi Grenade attacks kill 13 at Sri Lankan festival

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Thirteen pilgrims were killed and at least 60 injured when suspected left-wing rebels hurled grenades at a Buddhist religious procession in southern Sri Lanka, police said Wednesday.

They said thousands of pilgrims panicked as rebels lobbed two grenades at the procession Tuesday night at Kataragama, about 180 kilometres south-east of Colombo.

Police said about 10,000 people were watching a procession of elephants, dancers and drummers at the annual festival at Kataragama Temple, revered by Hindus as well as Buddhists.

Among the dead were four children, three women and three men, including the secretary of the temple's lay custodian.

Among those injured was the lay custodian, Deputy Minister for Upcountry Rehabilitation Dhamadasa Banda.

He was flown to a Colombo hospital by helicopter with several others who were seriously injured.

Police said the killings were

part of an anti-government campaign by subversives which has killed 2,500 people in the past two years.

According to reports reaching India, the attack occurred about 8:30 p.m. (1500 GMT) Tuesday. About 2,000 people had gathered for the procession, including Buddhists and Tamil Hindus from Sri Lanka and India.

"Lots of people have died," said Ponnudurai Ravinesan, Madras-based spokesman for a Sri Lankan Tamil political party. He said he did not yet have exact numbers.

Ravinesan, of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), blamed the attack on a Sinhalese extremist group, the People's Liberation Front.

The Sri Lankan government imposed censorship July 6 amid

escalating ethnic violence and a political dispute with India over the withdrawal of Indian peacekeeping forces from the small island nation southeast of Madras.

The Kataragama festival, in which both of Sri Lanka's major faiths participate, had long been considered a demonstration that Sinhalese and Tamil could come together in harmony despite the ethnic strife in their country.

Kataragama is in the predominantly Sinhalese district of Monaragala, which borders the largely Tamil Ampara district.

The People's Liberation Front, composed of ultra-nationalist Sinhalese, has usually attacked only fellow Sinhalese, mostly government officials and supporters. The front has accused the Sinhalese-dominated government of selling out its own people in its efforts to make peace with Tamil rebels.

Gandhi gets support

India's most prominent Tamil leader has changed his stance and backed New Delhi in the row with Sri Lanka over when Indian troops should leave the island.

"It is not our intention to take a stand contrary to the Indian government," Muthuvel Karunanidhi, chief minister of Tamil Nadu state, told a news conference in Madras.

Karunanidhi delivered a humiliating defeat to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party in January with an overwhelming state election win in Tamil Nadu, home of 50 million Tamils.

His party is part of an opposition front determined to topple Gandhi in national elections due by the end of the year.

Karunanidhi originally backed Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa's demand for India to withdraw its 45,000-man force by the end of July.

He told the news conference Tuesday the situation had changed in Sri Lanka with a flare-up of violence between Tamil groups, including the assassination of three Tamil leaders.

"How can our policies be the same when the situation on the ground has changed? There is no harm in changing one's stance according to the developing changes there," he said.

Uno to review controversial tax to better party's standing

TOKYO (AP) — Prime Minister Soisuke Uno said Wednesday he was ready to review a new sales tax that public opinion polls indicate are hurting his ruling party's chances in Sunday's parliamentary elections.

On his first tour outside Tokyo since campaigns for the upper house elections began July 5, Uno said people may feel some "perplexity" towards the three per cent tax that took effect April 1.

"If there are areas that need review, I hope to take responsibility and correct them," Uno told reporters in Osaka during a television news conference. He did not elaborate.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) bulldozed a tax reform package including the new sales tax through parliament late last year while opposition parties were boycotting proceedings. The opposition parties were demanding that members of the ruling party explain their leaders' alleged involvement in an influence-buying scandal involving the

Recruit Company.

Though the Liberal Democrats have long enjoyed majorities in both houses of parliament, they were widely criticised for ignoring the views of the opposition, which claimed the tax would create an unfair burden on low-income households. The tax since has become the major election issue.

Uno, describing himself as a "commander leading the battle," said he does not foresee a major loss Sunday.

But at a separate news conference, Ryutaro Hashimoto, the party's number two executive, hinted Wednesday at a possible alliance with the conservative opposition Democratic Socialist if the Liberal Democrats lose significantly, the Japan Broadcasting Corporation reported.

Uno's own popularity has suffered after allegations that he paid a geisha to be his mistress, and he had been keeping a low profile in the campaigning.

His wife, Chiyo, briefly addressed an LDP rally of about 5,000

women in Yokohama Wednesday, telling them women should be more outspoken.

Public opinion polls indicate that the ruling party, which has governed Japan for 34 years, will be an underdog in Sunday's elections for half of the 252 seats in the upper house.

The LDP formerly held 142 seats, including 73 not contested in this election. While it needs to win 54 Sunday to maintain a simple majority, the latest poll indicated the Liberal Democrats would capture only 33, give or take five seats.

The poll, conducted for the national newspaper Mainichi Shimbun, also indicated major gains for the leading opposition Japan Socialist Party — from its current 21 seats to total holdings and between 64 and 70 seats. Socialist Party leaders have said they hope to end up with 65 seats.

The Mainichi's poll was based on personal interviews July 14-16 with 34,237 eligible voters picked at random across the country.



Adnan Khashoggi extradited to U.S.

BERNE (Agencies) — Saudi financier and arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi was extradited by Switzerland to the United States Wednesday to face U.S. charges that he helped former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos plunder wealth from his country. Swiss authorities announced.

Khashoggi, escorted by two Swiss police officers, left by airplane for New York July three months after he was arrested in a Berne hotel on a U.S. warrant, said Justice Ministry spokesman Joerg Kistler.

Khashoggi, who was arrested in Berne at the request of U.S. authorities on April 18, agreed to the extradition, the spokesman said.

The Justice Department said it had agreed on Khashoggi's extradition to face charges of fraud and falsifying documents, but had rejected the U.S. request he be turned over to be tried on racketeering and conspiracy charges.

The latter charges do not exist in Switzerland, it noted, adding: "Extradition for these two charges is not possible because of the lack of mutual criminality."

Khashoggi, whose wealth was once estimated at \$4 billion, is accused of helping Marcos and his wife Imelda conceal the looting of \$103 million from the Philippine treasury and defrauding American banks of \$165 million.

His attorney Robert Morvillo asked a U.S. federal court judge last week to grant Khashoggi bail if the financier would agree to come to New York to stand trial rather than appeal to the Swiss supreme court against his extradition.

Under Swiss law, 53-year-old Khashoggi would have had 30 days to ask the supreme court to rule on the extradition decision.

An appeal would have meant continued detention in a tiny cell of the Berne jail, well beyond his 54th birthday next Tuesday. U.S. authorities have indicated readiness to free him on bail pending trial.

Khashoggi, the Marcoses, five other people and a California bank were indicted in October by U.S. district court in New York.

Khashoggi is charged in the indictment with racketeering, conspiracy, obstruction of justice and mail fraud. Racketeering alone carries a penalty of up to 20 years in prison.

Swiss authorities said a U.S. diplomatic note asking that Khashoggi be arrested cited four buildings in Manhattan and a collection of paintings that disappeared from a Manila museum.

Khashoggi is said to have been the main financier and middleman of the Iran-contra affair, in which proceeds of secret U.S. arms sales to Iran were channeled to rebels fighting the leftist Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

Apollo laser reflector still beaming

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A laser reflection experiment that scientists compared to using a rifle to hit a moving coin 3.2 kilometres away is the only instrument on the moon from the Apollo programme still working, officials say.

The device, called a laser ranging retro-reflector, is used regularly to reflect laser beams aimed at it from Earth, said officials at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) jet propulsion laboratory in Pasadena.

One was set in the lunar dust in the sea of tranquillity 20 years ago by astronauts Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin.

NASA officials said Tuesday. "One of the reasons why it's still being used is because there's no energy required on the moon for it to be used," said Jean Dickey, supervisor of the space geodesic science and applications group at the laboratory.

Similar reflectors were left elsewhere on the moon by Apollo 14 and Apollo 15, and by Lunakhod 2, an unmanned Soviet lander, and all four still are used by three ground stations on Earth, Dickey said.

"It's the only experiment from the Apollo programme that is still working," she said.

A solar-powered instrument package also was left on the moon to transmit data back to Earth by Apollo 11, and each of the five successful lunar landings placed nuclear-powered instrument stations on the moon.

But all were shut down during the mid-1970s, as budget cuts made it impossible to continue processing data transmitted from the moon, said Charles Redmond, a NASA spokesman in Washington.

The laser ranging retro-reflector is the moving coin in scientists' rifle-shooting analogy, and was designed to reflect laser pulses fired from the McDonald Observatory in Fort Davis.



'STANDARD PROCEDURE' — In India, the largest democracy in the world, parliamentarians resort to all forms of expression in making their voices heard. But, sometimes, they end up

outside the session. Picture shows a member of the legislative assembly in the state of Bihar being bodily removed from parliament after he refused an order to leave.

IRA bombsights stay trained on railroad

By Robert Barr
The Associated Press

KILNASAGGART, Northern Ireland — Just when it seemed safe to ride the rails again, Irish Republican Army (IRA) bombs have made train service between Dublin and Belfast a day-to-day proposition.

Service between the two capitals was disrupted again over the weekend as the British army gingerly removed a van abandoned beneath a bridge at Meigh, about six kilometres north of the border of Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

"It was just a hoax," a spokesman for the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) said Sunday afternoon, but it was one that took two days to clear.

IRA bombs often arrive in stolen vans, and the railroad has been a prime target since the first explosion at the Kilnasaggart bridge Dec. 16.

days between Dec. 16 and mid-April, and passenger traffic dropped 30 per cent, according to Northern Ireland Railways.

Two months of peace ended June 17 when a bomb exploded near the station at Garriagh in suburban Belfast. There was another explosion June 20 at another commuter station, and a flurry of false reports that briefly closed the line.

No one has been killed or injured in these incidents, though there was a close call March 2 when a bomb exploded without warning on a bridge four minutes before a passenger train was due.

The recent problems have dented the railroad's hopes of rebuilding traffic on the Dublin-Belfast line, a joint venture with Irish Rail that normally carries 1,300 passengers a day on the one-hour, 55-minute express journey. There is no scheduled bus or air service between the cities.

"We always get passengers to their destinations, an executive

of Northern Ireland Railways said, though often that includes a bus ride part of the way.

Southbound trains from Belfast were stopped over the weekend at Newry, and passengers were put aboard buses for a 19-kilometre ride to Dundalk, in the Irish Republic, to resume their rail journey.

The IRA, in a statement reported March 11 in the Belfast Telegraph, said the bombings were "part of a military strategy aimed at forcing the British army out of fixed positions and border bunkers."

The mostly Roman Catholic IRA, outlawed both by the British and Irish governments, has waged a 20-year guerrilla campaign to drive the British out of the Protestant-dominated province of Northern Ireland and unite it with the Irish Republic.

An explosion is often the bait to lure British soldiers near other booby-trapped devices. One such trap, involving four explosive devices, was planted

in February at the Kilnasaggart bridge, which is within 1,000 metres of the border.

The area is known as "bandit country," where narrow roads twist and turn through pastures and thickets of trees.

The British army operates from hilltop forts, watching the countryside from steel towers.

On March 20, the IRA ambushed and killed two high-ranking officers of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Northern Ireland's police force, about five kilometres from Kilnasaggart.

On April 12, explosives packed into a stolen van exploded without warning to Warrington to the northeast, killing a 19-year-old Catholic woman and causing extensive damage to property.

Though little more than a wide place in the road, Kilnasaggart has a rich deposit of history reflecting its strategic position astride the Slighe Míodhlacdhra, the ancient route between southern Ireland

and the northern lands of Ulster.

In a pasture below the bridge stands the Kilnasaggart pillar stone, the 8th-century Christian carving on what appears to be a prehistoric monolith.

Above the bridge rises the ruined tower of Moyry Castle, built by the British in 1601 during the suppression of a Gaelic rebellion led by Hugh O'Neill.

The bombings are "sheer economic madness," says J.L. McCart, a district council member for the Social Democratic and Labour Party, the largest predominantly Catholic party in Northern Ireland.

In his home in Warrington, McCart proudly displays a silver plate commemorating the reopening of Newry station in 1984.

"I would hate to have happened to the railways what happened to the cross-border electricity line," said McCart, recalling the IRA bombing campaign that severed the energy link.

COLUMN

Bhutto's uncle robbed of car and cash

KARACHI (R) — Gunmen held up an uncle of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, stealing his car and 200,000 rupees (\$9,520) in cash, police said Wednesday. Ashiq Ali Bhutto was driving near the prime minister's home in Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city, Tuesday when the robbers struck, they said. Mr. Bhutto is a major property owner in the Bhuttos' home town Larkana in southern Pakistan.

Shedding clothes after husband

RENO, Nevada (AP) — Leslie Sferazza, who shed her husband's mayor recently, plans to shed her clothes for the September issue of Playboy magazine. "I wished her the best of success. What else can I say?" Mayor Pete Sferazza said when asked how he felt about his former wife's plans. "Playboy presented me with the option to do a very positive story on Reno," said Mr. Sferazza, 25. She said she decided to approach Playboy in March after a friend said she looked like a model. In fact, she said, she had done some modelling previously. Playboy will be distributing 30,000 copies in the Reno area, five times the normal circulation here. The Sferazzas' divorce was finalised late last month. It ended the couple's second marriage to each other; they were divorced once before, in December 1987.

Life expectancy of Japanese increasing

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese, who already can expect to live longer people anywhere else in the world, will live to an average age of 78.86 years for men and 85.98 years for women by 2010, a new study predicts. The projection was released recently by the health and welfare statistics association, a non-profit organisation affiliated with the Health and Welfare Ministry. Researchers studied deaths per 100,000 people in different age groups and cause of death between 1979 and 1987. The ministry's institute of population problems, using older death rate figures for its projection, has put the average life expectancy of Japanese men in 2010 at 77.43 years and predicted 83.37 years for women. According to the government's 1987 statistics, the most recent available, a Japanese woman's life expectancy was 81.39 years, up 0.46 years from 1986, and a man's was 75.61 years, up 0.38 years from the previous year. Japanese longevity has been attributed to improvements in the nation's medical system, better nutrition and higher living standards, Shigekazu Hishinuma, acting director of the private life expectancy study group, told Kyodo news service. About a 10th of Japan's 120 million people now are 65 or older, according to government figures.

Gabor admits slapping policeman

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — Actress Zsa Zsa Gabor admits she slapped a police officer, but says he deserved it. "The policeman is an empty-headed, gorgeous man," she said. Then, in a stream of denunciations, compared him to Nazi soldiers in her native Hungary. "But the Nazis were smarter; they had the sense to mistreat women in private," said Gabor. Gabor said she hit officer Paul Kramer in self-defence because he threatened to break her arm. She pleaded innocent to several misdemeanor charges.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	15	50	22 °C Cloudy
ATHENS	21	70	32 °C Cloudy
BAIRN	31	88	43 °C Clear
BANGKOK	25	77	33 °C Clear
Buenos Aires	13	56	24 °F Clear
CAIRO	23	73	34 °C Clear
CHICAGO	17	62	28 °F Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	10	50	18 °F Cloudy
FRANKFURT	08	48	22 °F Cloudy
GENEVA	12	54	28 °F Cloudy
HONG KONG	28	82	38 °C Cloudy
ISTANBUL	18	64	32 °C Cloudy
LONDON	16	61	28 °F Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	10	67	21 °C Clear
MADRID	21	70	40 °F Clear
MEXICO	22	84	43 °C Clear
MONTREAL	16	61	29 °F Cloudy
MOSCOW	10	50	20 °F Clear
NEW DELHI	28	82	37 °C Cloudy
NEW YORK	18	64	32 °F Clear
PARIS	15	59	31 °F Clear
ROME	15	59	31 °F Clear
STOCKHOLM	07	45	13 °C Cloudy
TOKYO	22	72	28 °C Cloudy
VIENNA	12	54	19 °C Cloudy

